

Annual Report 2024-2025



TOWN OF
Newington
CONNECTICUT EST. 1871

Tel: 860-665-8500
Website: www.newingtonct.gov

Address: 200 Garfield Street
Newington, CT 06111

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 2024-2025



Edited by:
Erika Norton-Zisa

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

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 2024-2025 was 39.67. 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

Jon Trister, 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.

2024-2025 Budget

On April 16, 2024, the Town Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget as follows:

- Total appropriations: \$143,363,915
- Mill Rate: 39.67 mills
- Approved the Town of Newington Long Range Capital Improvement Plan 2024-2025 through 2028-2029

2025-2026 Budget

On April 22, 2025, the Town Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget as follows:

- Total appropriations: \$151,030,802
- Mill Rate: 39.98 mills
- Approved the Town of Newington Long Range Capital Improvement Plan 2025-2026 through 2029-2030

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

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

www.newingtonct.gov



Mayor
Jon Trister



Minority Leader (D)
Mitch Page



Majority Leader (R)
Tim Manke



Councilor
Gail Budrejko



Councilor
Kathy Gonzalez



Councilor
Matthew Plourd



Councilor
Kim Radda



Councilor
David Nagel



Councilor
A.J. Tiniakos

2024-2025 Highlights

- Appointed new Town Manager, Jonathan Altshul.
- Executed new Collective Bargaining Agreements with AF-SCME Local 2930 and Teamsters Local 671.
- Authorized November Referendum on Pool Project, which was voted down by a 48%-52% margin.
- Completed sale of 690 Cedar/1 Myra Cohen Way, the former National Welding site.
- Established new Permanent Municipal Building Committee, Fire Department Facilities Project Building Committee & Cultural District Commission.
- Recognized many civic organizations, employees, and residents on their contributions to the Newington community, including the Newington Food Bank Volunteers as the 2024 Volunteers of the Year.
- Made numerous appointments to Town boards, commissions and committees.
- Awarded 2024-2025 Teacher of the Year to Jeff Helming, 2nd Grade Teacher at Anna Reynolds Elementary School.
- Acknowledged NHS Principal Terra Tigno & John Wallace MS Assistant Principal Marco Tirillo for state-wide CAS awards.

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Newington Administration

Town Manager

Jonathan Altshul, 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.

2024-2025 Highlights

- Welcomed Jonathan Altshul as the new Town Manager on August 12, 2024.
- Promoted Lauren Rhines to Assistant Town Manager, effective January 2, 2025.
- Negotiated new Collective Bargaining Agreements with AFSCME, Local 2930 & Teamsters, Local 671.
- Coordinated sale of 690 Cedar Street/1 Myra Cohen Way, the former National Welding site.
- Finalized purchase of 28 Garfield Street for use as the new Emergency Operations Center.
- Reviewed and revised portions of the Town's Personnel Rules and Regulations and Employee Health & Safety Manual.
- Initiated website redesign and expanded use of social media for Town communications to improve community engagement.
- Provided purchasing and administrative support for various capital and planning projects, including Anna Reynolds ES and John Wallace MS Renovations, Town Center Study, Emergency Operations Center Fit Out, Police Department HVAC and Roof Replacement, and Evaluation of Aquatic Facilities.
- Issued RFP and provided administrative support for recommendations on an Employee Insurance and Benefits Agent of Record and Liability Agent of Record.
- Facilitated first-annual Employee Holiday Luncheon, second-annual Employee Health & Wellness Fair, and Hartford Yardgoats event to foster employee satisfaction.
- Updated and revised various job descriptions to reflect current roles and responsibilities.
- Provided administrative support for creation of new Permanent Municipal Building Committee, Fire Department Facilities Project Building Committee & Cultural District Commission.
- Provided high-quality leadership and administrative and human resources support to Town Departments.
- Responded to public inquiries and complaints promptly, courteously and professionally.

Employee Anniversaries

25 Years

- Kathleen Kelliher– Police

10 Years

- Dean Corriveau– Police

5 Years

- Janine Pierson– Human Services
- Clay Pedigo– Parks, Grounds & Cemeteries
- Melissa Rome– Police
- Kathryn Cazassa– Police
- Justin Thibault– Police

Newington Administration

Town Clerk

James Krupienski, Town Clerk

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

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

2024-2025 Highlights

- The Republican Party held a Primary on August 13, 2024 for US Senator. The office issued 26 Absentee Ballots for the Republican Primary.
- The Presidential Election was held on November 5, 2024, for which the office issued 1,240 Absentee Ballots.
- Received a \$7,500 FY2025 Historic Documents Preservation Grant from the State Library to replace 300 Compact Land Record books with Champ binders for preservation and access. Each new binder contains four (4) Land Record books.
- The Town Clerk has continued to meet with the Secretary of the State's office and other regional Town Clerk's for the review and implementation of the new State-wide Voter Registration System in early 2025.
- Continuing the project of converting 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 project was funded using ARPA funds.
- A public record shredding event was held on March 22, 2025, for town residents to destroy personal records and decrease solid waste removal costs for the town. This event is expected to continue as an annual or bi-annual event.

2025-2026 Goals

Upgrade the Laserfiche Content Management Platform to allow for public accessibility to town records through the use of the Public Records Portal and to assist in the management of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests.

Continued scheduling of the bi-annual public record shredding event for town residents to destroy personal files and to decrease solid waste removal costs within the town.

Application for a FY2026 Historic Documents Preservation Grant to the State Library to continue the process of replacing compact covers with accessible binders.

Town Clerk Statistical Summary 2023-2024		
LAND RECORDS	2024-2025	2023-2024
Documents	4,186	4,323
Maps	19	32
VITAL STATISTICS		
Births	260	271
Marriages	250	200
Deaths	428	387
LICENSES		
Sporting	414	394
Dog	2,357	2,061
Kennel	2	2
MISCELLANEOUS		
Veteran's Discharges	28	36
Trade Name Certificates	90	77
Liquor Permits	46	41
Notary Public Certificates	106	91
RECEIPTS – TOWN		
Recording Fees	\$131,476.00	\$129,991.00
Conveyance Tax	\$539,023.83	\$452,768.36
Document Preservation	\$13,412.00	\$13,499.00
Vital Statistics	\$58,952.00	\$63,932.00
Dog Licenses	\$2,350.50	\$2,153.00
Sporting Licenses	\$111.00	\$104.00
Copy Fees	\$20,310.50	\$22,189.50
Miscellaneous	\$6,593.70	\$6,146.20
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$772,229.53	\$690,783.06
RECEIPTS – STATE		
Document Preservation	\$24,624.00	\$26,112.00
Dog License Surcharge	\$5,432.00	\$4,758.00
Dog Licenses	\$14,133.00	\$12,892.50
Sporting Licenses	\$1,989.00	\$1,849.00
Marriage Surcharge	\$4,148.00	\$3,298.00
State Treasurer	\$195,645.00	\$199,620.00
LoCIP	\$9,048.00	\$9,693.00
TOTAL STATE	\$255,019.00	\$258,222.50
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,027,248.53	\$949,005.56

Information Technology

**Scott Sharlow,
Director**

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.

2024-2025 Highlights

- Installed, configured, and maintained systems including but not limited to: Computers, Servers, Wireless Access Points, Switches, Firewalls, Cabling, Access Controls, Data Carrier Service, Audio/ Visual, Telephone, and Surveillance Systems
- Processed over 1,000 formal call-for-service help tickets from 7/1/2024-6/30/2025
- Maintained and enhanced Town audio/video remote meeting equipment
- Configured, tested, and deployed new time scheduling software at PD
- Implemented network security infrastructure reviews and performed remediations
- Technology setup for Parks programs and facilities including the Extravaganza
- Updated financial management software to new release
- Continued management and deployment of Police video evidentiary management system
- Updated Town Computer Aided Mass Appraisal solution for Assessor's office
- Maintained and expanded use of the body worn and in car camera solution
- Updated technology infrastructure in the Police Dispatch office
- Continued work on the cloud migration to the Microsoft 365 (MS365) platform
- Continued work on the implementation of the Town's radio communication solution
- Performed maintenance of the UPS appliances in all Town data facilities
- Assisted Registrar of Voters with election preparations and technology solutions
- Updated Town sign creation software and hardware
- Worked collaboratively to update Town website content for new redesign
- Updated Town Hyperconverged Infrastructure and virtu-

alization software

- Installed, configured, and implemented PD mobile ticket system
- Assisted with CAMA revaluation database setup
- Created and helped implement new Building Management System for Town Hall, PD, and Library
- Deployed Audio/Video solution for remote meetings within PD
- Procured, configured, and installed new UPS for the main data facility in the PD
- Continued maintenance and implementation of the Town's Multi-Factor Authentication solution

2025-2026 Goals

- Continued deployment of workstations, laptops and applications across all departments
- Deployment of Microsoft 365 cloud-based email and application solution Town agencies
- Provide upgraded network infrastructure at Town facilities utilizing dark fiber optic connections
- Expanded public wireless solutions to Town Parks and Facilities
- Upgraded Cemetery management application for Parks and Grounds
- Worked to enhance broadband opportunities for Town residents
- Continued work on the technology solutions for the Emergency Operations Center project
- Replaced aging devices unable to run latest OS updates
- Continued work on the Town Website redesign project
- Continued work on the radio conversion to the State CLRMN solution
- Deprecated and replace older server OS and applications
- Security upgrades at PD, SDC, Libraries, and Parks.
- Configured and deploy new technology data facility in PD
- Continued working with Town departments to help identify areas where technology innovation can assist them in reaching their goals and objectives
- Maintained and expand the use of the Town's Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) and Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) platforms
- Replaced Wireless Access Points that are End-of-Support and
- Enhanced public internet access at Town parks and facilities

Newington Administration 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. The department responded to 1,840 requests and completed a total of 1,683 work orders. 584 of those work orders were preventative maintenance tasks.

2024-2025 Highlights

The use of our asset management software called AkitaBox continues to assist the department in efficiency, compliance, and a fiscally responsible approach with our initiatives. Our productivity and level of service has expidendeniously increased since the implementation of this software. This is critical in ensuring the appropriate level of compliance and oversight associated with the ongoing initiatives of our Town Facilities. The Facilities Department continuously evaluates the needs of the building occupants, and the Town's resources, to provide the very best efforts for the building occupants and for the public that utilizes our facilities. This approach will continue to be the foundation for the Facilities Department's planning process moving forward. Projects will be prioritized according to needs.

This past year was another busy year as we performed a variety of work throughout our portfolio. The team is responsible for approximately 300,000 square feet of infrastructure, and this number will be increasing with the new addition of 28 Garfield Street, which was purchased last year. One of the significant tasks this past year was the planning of the EOC renovation within this space. We look forward to a successful construction project that will begin in August of 2025. Life Safety Compliance inspections, including Fire Alarm, Sprinkler, Smoke Detectors and Emergency Lighting is completed monthly, quarterly, semiannually and annually at each of our buildings. The Town was also inspected/audited by Connecticut OSHA this past year. This survey prompted upgrades, modifications, and/or alterations to certain facilities and our work flow policies.

Notable accomplishments this past year

- Police Department HVAC and Roof Replacement Project, Locker room upgrades, and the addition to the Memorial Monument.
- The completion of the canopy project at the Human Services entrance and the Park and Rec emergency exit.
- The Highway Department security upgrades were completed as well as 90% of the feasibility study. The Grounds Department silo demolition was completed as well as 90% of the feasibility study.
- Planning and contractor budgets for upgrades to the Kellogg Eddy House.
- Completion of the ADA self-audits to the frontline buildings with in our purview.
- Great strides have been made with evaluating, establishing, and negotiated our lease needs.
- Upgrades to our lock out tag out system as well as our ladder safety protocols have been accomplished.

2025-2026 Goals

- Completion of security upgrades to the Senior and Disabled Center including cameras and card access controls.
- Relocation renovations for a new exercise room at the Senior and Disabled Center
- Security upgrades to the Police Department. Removing blind spots and replacing old antiquated cameras.
- Completion of the PPE storage and data facility at the Police Department.
- Completion of feasibility studies at Highway and Grounds Garage.
- Completion of ADA evaluations with the Town's Compliance Officer.
- Completion of the EOC renovation Project.
- Finalize leases to facilities operated by 3rd parties. (NEMS, IHCC, American Legion, Historic Properties, Fire Facilities)

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 verify 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 Same 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

SDR: (Same Day Registration): Town Hall Mortensen Community Center, 200 Garfield Street

2024-2025 Highlights:

- November 5, 2024.
- Eligible Voters 21,675
- Voter turnout for this election was 77% in total.
- Early Voting turnout was 36.19% with Same Day Registration votes totaling 3.65%.

2025-2026 Goals:

- Implement use of new voting tabulators issued by the Office of the Secretary of State.
- New voter database pending release following November Election.
- 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.

2024-2025 Highlights

Accounting and Administration

- For the thirtieth fifth consecutive year, the Town received the award for the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for fiscal year 2023-2024.
- The Town went out to bond for the Anna Reynolds Renovation and Town Hall projects in the Spring of 2024. Additional bonding for these projects and the John Wallace Wing redesign project will be going out to bond in the next few years.
- The Town of Newington's outstanding bonded debt at June 30th 2025 was \$31,550,000 an increase from the prior year due to the current bond issuance.
- During the fiscal year projects continued to be put forward to the Council to approve for ARPA funding. All funds were encumbered by December 2024 and these funds will need to be spent by December 2026. Annual reporting for this grant was done during the Spring of 2025.
- 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's Office

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.

Overview

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 2024 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 12,543 Real Estate parcels, 1,679 Business Personal Property accounts and 28,488 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 2024-2025

- Provided professional service to general public and taxpayers.
- Completed the October 1, 2024 Grand List on time as required by law.
- Sent out and processed over 500 Income & Expense forms to owners of commercial properties.
- Sent out and processed 1,680 Business Personal Property Declarations.
- Approved approximately 500 elderly taxpayers for tax relief benefits totaling just under \$490,500.

Department Goals FY 2025-2026

- Successfully complete the October 1, 2025 Real Estate Revaluation.
- Continue to provide taxpayers with courteous, professional, and responsive service in a timely manner.
- Maintain an equalized tax base according to State Statutes and professional appraisal/assessment standards.

Newington Administration

Finance Department

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Business Personal Property and Motor Vehicles are assessed at 70% annually. The Grand List consists of 12,543 real estate parcels, 1,679 business personal property accounts and over 28,488 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 2024-2025

- Provided professional service to general public and taxpayers.
- Completed October 1, 2024 Grand List on time as required by law.
- Sent out and processed 500 Income and Expense forms to owners of commercial properties.
- Sent out and processed over 1,680 business personal property declarations.
- Approved approximately 500 elderly taxpayers for tax relief benefits totaling just under \$490,500.
- Began the process of conducting the October 1, 2025 town-wide Real Estate Revaluation.

Department Goals FY 2024-2025

- Successfully complete the October 1, 2025 Real Estate Revaluation.
- Continue to provide taxpayers with courteous, professional, and responsive service in a timely manner.
- Maintain an equalized tax base according to State Statutes and professional appraisal/assessment standards.

The month of January 2025 was spent by all staff members finalizing the October 1, 2024 Grand List which was formally signed in front of the Town Clerk on January 31, 2025. The final totals for the Grand List are shown below:

<i>Town of Newington</i>				
<i>2024 Net Taxable Grand List</i>				
Category	2023 Grand List	2024 Grand List	Change \$	Change %
<i>Real Estate</i>	\$ 2,351,653,310	\$ 2,367,428,286	\$ 15,774,976	0.67%
<i>Personal Property</i>	\$ 215,238,750	\$ 230,046,809	\$ 14,808,059	6.88%
<i>Motor Vehicles</i>	\$ 330,552,703	\$ 292,407,635	\$ (38,145,068)	-11.54%
<i>Total</i>	\$ 2,897,444,763	\$ 2,889,882,730	\$ (7,562,033)	-0.26%
<i>Tax Exempt Real Estate</i>	\$ 421,498,900	\$ 440,241,024	\$ 18,742,124	4.45%
<i>Tax Exempt Personal Property</i>	\$ 118,190,020	\$ 100,710,977	\$ (17,479,043)	-14.79%

***For 2024 Grand List the total amount of personal property exemptions, as we are required by the State of Connecticut to grant, is \$100,710,977 resulting in a lost revenue of \$3,863,273 being redistributed to real estate, motor vehicle and other personal property taxpayers.

Commentary on the October 1, 2024 Grand List

The October 1, 2024 **Net Grand List** for the Town of Newington totals **\$2,889,882,730** which is a decrease of \$7,562,033 or -0.26% as compared to the 2023 Net Grand List.

Finance Department

This reduction is attributable to a decrease in Motor Vehicle brought about by a change in the valuation method mandated by a new state statute, offset by increases in Real Estate and business Personal Property categories of the Grand List which increased \$15,774,976 and \$14,808,059 respectively.

The **Real Estate** portion of the 2024 Grand List totals **\$2,367,428,286** which is an increase of \$15,774,976 or 0.671% more than the 2023 Grand List.

The 10-year abatement for 3313-3333 Berlin Turnpike began on the 2024 Grand List, resulting in a 60% reduction in assessment for the first year.

The 10-year abatement for 96-100 Pane Road went into effect for the 2024 Grand List, resulting in a 50% assessment.

The **Personal Property** portion of the 2024 Grand List totals **\$230,046,809** which is an increase of \$14,808,059 or 6.88% over the 2023 Grand List.

The **Motor Vehicle** section of the 2024 Grand List totals **\$292,407,635** which is a decrease of \$38,145,068 or -11.54% compared to the 2023 Grand List. The average assessment of a passenger motor vehicle decreased from \$11,526 for the 2023 Grand List to \$10,389 for the 2024 Grand List. The primary reason for this reduction is a change in state statutes mandating that MSRP less depreciation be used to value motor vehicles. In addition, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and personal use trailers are no longer taxable.

The **Tax-Exempt** portion of the 2024 Real Estate Grand List totals **\$440,241,024** which represents a 15.7% decrease of the total **Real Estate Grand List**. The state mandated tax exemption of certain business personal property results in a reduction of the personal property grand list of **\$100,710,977** in assessment resulting in a loss of 30.4% to the **Personal Property Grand List**. The motor vehicle exemptions are nominal.

2024 Grand List Top 25 Taxpayers

Rank		Taxpayer	Use	Total			% of Total
2023	2024			Gross	Exemptions	Net	
1	1	Conn Light & Power Company	Public Utility	\$ 82,345,770	\$ -	\$ 82,345,770	2.85%
2	2	Newington Gross LLC	Retail	\$ 19,529,360	\$ -	\$ 19,529,360	0.68%
N/A	3	172 Kitts LLC	Retail	\$ 18,547,440	\$ -	\$ 18,547,440	0.64%
4	4	Newington UE LLC	Retail	\$ 18,200,000	\$ -	\$ 18,200,000	0.63%
6	5	Brixmor GA Turnpike Plaza LLC	Retail	\$ 16,100,000	\$ -	\$ 16,100,000	0.56%
5	6	IREIT Newington Fair LLC	Retail	\$ 15,957,300	\$ -	\$ 15,957,300	0.55%
N/A	7	Hanwa Aerospace USA LLC	Manufacturer	\$ 31,136,840	\$ 15,197,160	\$ 15,939,680	0.55%
10	8	Hayes Kaufman Newington/Hayes Properties	Retail	\$ 15,820,000	\$ -	\$ 15,820,000	0.55%
7	9	475 Willard Associates LLC	Industrial	\$ 15,375,940	\$ -	\$ 15,375,940	0.53%
9	10	Residences at Newington LLP	Apartments (UC)	\$ 29,175,960	\$ 14,587,980	\$ 14,587,980	0.50%
8	11	Connecticut Natural Gas Corp	Public Utility	\$ 13,260,530	\$ -	\$ 13,260,530	0.46%
11	12	Target Corporation	Big Box Store	\$ 11,175,810	\$ -	\$ 11,175,810	0.39%
12	13	Lowes Home Centers Inc	Big Box Store	\$ 11,144,090	\$ -	\$ 11,144,090	0.39%
13	14	NE Farmington Owner LLC	Hotel	\$ 10,293,000	\$ -	\$ 10,293,000	0.36%
14	15	Agree Eastern LLC	Retail	\$ 9,541,420	\$ -	\$ 9,541,420	0.33%
15	16	Furniture Executives NO 4 LP/Raymours Furniture CO	Retail	\$ 8,856,310	\$ -	\$ 8,856,310	0.31%
	17	Newington Ice Arena LLC	Recreation	\$ 8,025,950	\$ -	\$ 8,025,950	0.28%
16	18	Hartford Hospital	Medical/Assisted Living	\$ 17,700,720	\$ 10,163,400	\$ 7,537,320	0.26%
17	19	Cohen Family Limited Partnership	Apartments	\$ 7,173,780	\$ -	\$ 7,173,780	0.25%
18	20	Brown Development	Retail	\$ 6,909,000	\$ -	\$ 6,909,000	0.24%
23	21	Mandell Properties LLC	Industrial	\$ 6,790,000	\$ -	\$ 6,790,000	0.23%
20	22	Fennwoode Apartments LLC	Apartments	\$ 6,661,830	\$ -	\$ 6,661,830	0.23%
19	23	Griswold Hills of Newington LTD Partnership	Apartments	\$ 6,613,640	\$ -	\$ 6,613,640	0.23%
21	24	Berlin Newington Associates	Retail	\$ 6,300,000	\$ -	\$ 6,300,000	0.22%
24	25	505 Newington Stolley LLC	Office Building	\$ 5,908,060	\$ -	\$ 5,908,060	0.20%

Revenue Collector

Corinne Aldinger, CCMC

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

The primary objectives of the Revenue Collector are to secure the maximum collection of revenues due the town, maintain accurate collection records, ensure proper controls and safeguard the revenue collected. When these objectives are accomplished in an efficient manner they reflect the financial well being of the Town, which is the backbone of the municipality in regard to fiscal debt and bonding ability. This office enforces Connecticut State Statutes by operating in accordance with guidelines established by the Office of Policy and Management. Revenue generated by all other Town departments is balanced in the Tax Office and then deposited. The office of the Revenue Collector also serves as a center for property tax information. The staff assists attorneys, title searchers, real estate agents, residents and others regarding payment history and other information available from the tax records.

Tax Collection Activity FY 2024-25

Taxes on Current Levy	\$110,523,888.46
Taxes on Motor Vehicle Supplemental List	\$1,331,916.62
Taxes on Prior Years Lists	\$559,269.80
Interest, Liens and Other Fees	\$469,131.65
Taxes on Advanced Collection 2024 GL	\$139,323.31
Taxes and Fees Collected	\$113,023,529.84
Collection Rate on Current Levy	98.94%

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.

2024-25 Significant Achievements:

Our Financial Casework program is seeing a significant level of anxiety amongst our clients due to unexpected reductions in assistance due to anticipated changes in both the federal & state budgets.

The food bank offered shopping sessions while maintaining delivery or pick up of pre-packed food. We served an average of 187 households each month and distributed 15,169 bags of food this past year.

Our Holiday Food & Gift Program is a collaboration with virtually all sectors of the community. I am extremely grateful for the incredible Human Services Staff who go above & beyond to ensure that so many have a brighter holiday. We assisted 400 households & 800 individuals in November & December in the 2024 holiday program.

The work we do is only possible due the amazing support of so many individual residents, businesses, civic organizations, schools, houses of worship, town departments & staff who support the food bank either through volunteer hours, grocery or cash donations. In FY25-We received 283 different food donations-several making weekly or monthly donations and 289 different financial donations. There were 44 memorial donations. There were also donations made to our department in honor of Newington Police Department & the Newington Fire Marshals Office as appreciation for services they received from these departments. Of note- Carvel donated over \$6000, and the annual turkey trot organized by neighbors donated close to \$3670 in addition to a large amount of food, Knights of Columbus donated hundreds of pounds of food monthly. We had four different residents rise to an outstanding level of support: One woman provides several boxes of cleaning supplies for the Food Bank weekly along with significant financial donations; another volunteer witnessed one of our clients struggling with transportation & she initiated a fund specifically to address these needs through LYFT and makes monthly donations to meet this need, another resident contributes several hundred dollars monthly of purchased items currently needed by the food bank, and another woman set up a memorial cash donation drive to honor her friend who lived in Newington & worked at Newington Human Services as a social worker many years ago.

This community seems to take to heart the quote from Gandhi: "Be the Change that you wish to see in the world."

We are also incredibly grateful to our close to 128 volunteers who support our programs throughout the year by providing 2267 hours of service, 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 justice. Intake & hearing structure was modified to be more youth centered. Our grant source through DCF has initiated a new set of protocols & procedures, changing the program title from Juvenile Review Board to Youth Diversion Team with a hopefully more positive association to the process. These changes prioritize accountability, healing, and support.

Our youth and family counseling program under the direction of Coordinator Hendrickson provided short term youth & family therapy, assisted residents in connecting with alternative treatment options, coordinated community presentations that addressed Mental Health, Substance Use & General Well-being practices for all and provided support in the schools.

Our Youth Program Coordinator Manion planned & facilitated ALPs- a program as part of the 5th grade health curriculum offered to all 5th grade students- to explore positive- healthy choices, team work & communication; High School Adventure Club; transitional programs for 4th & 8th graders; SCORE -Student Challenge of Recreation & Education (after- school programs) & Summer Youth Adventure. He initiated a new program Adult to Youth mentoring in January & this was received very positively- offering youth an objective adult that they can connect with and who can support them and lead them in exploration of best steps to promote positive growth toward goals such as academic performance, social engagement, positive substance choices, securing employment, making long term goals re college, career etc.

Newington Community Services

Human Services

Achievements Cont..

Goals for 2025-2026

Continue to provide quality casework services. Expand resources in response to potential Federal & State cuts in assistance levels for energy, SNAP, Medicaid, housing & more.

Staff development: Offer training to maintain knowledge on current trends and best practices in social casework & to maintain clinical licensure and certifications required for administration of adventure- based programs.

Continue to modify department web page based on new design. Use more extensively & keep info current.

Explore options and assistance in marketing with a goal of increased parent & community engagement.

Expand our Wellness Wednesday Series -offer community education and awareness and de-stigmatization of MH issues and mindfulness practices to assist all in coping in an ever- changing world.

ANNUAL STATISTICS

	2024-2025	2023-2024
Youth & Family	189 cumulative cases	128 cumulative Counseling cases
Avg. monthly Y & F cases	16 households	12 household
Youth & Family service hrs	312.5 annual	180 hours
Total casework cases	1340 cumulative cases	1503 cumulative cases
Ave. monthly casework cases	111 households- seen primarily by two workers	125 households
Casework svc. hrs	1634 cumulative hrs	2051.75 cumulative hrs
Special Needs	89 cases	96 cases
Food Bank	2238 visits, 15169 bags	2137 visits 17,680 bags
Open Air Market	3100 visits	3092 visits
Holiday Food, Gifts	400 HH 800 Ind.	444 HH 898 ind.
Positive Youth Dev.	1129 prog. Reg. inc. mentor & yth pres.	1022
Juvenile Review Board	24 cases	19 cases



Lucy Robbins Welles Library

**Lisa Masten,
Director**

The library continues to be a vital asset to the Town of Newington providing services, information, a strong and varied collection, and programming for all-ages to meet the needs of the community. This has been a busy year with the library open 325 days including 25 Sundays, 113,932 people visiting the library and 270,624 items checked out. Staff answered 40,872 informational and 1,908 tech questions and pulled and processed 24,680 items that were reserved by patrons. The library is part of a consortium of 32 libraries that an integrated library system and other technological innovations to improve the delivery of services.

2024-2025 Highlights

- The library offers many services to better serve the community that are evaluated on a regular basis. Popular services at the library included the free notary service with 462 documents notarized, public computers for internet use and free WiFi access and the *Books-for-You* homebound delivery service that has dedicated volunteers who delivered and picked up 1,603 items to our homebound patrons. Free meeting space for students, individuals, non-profit organizations and internal business meetings was used 3,699 times.
- Staff continued to develop a balanced collection of materials to meet the needs of our many patrons that is available in multiple formats including print and audio books, digital materials, CDs, DVDs, and Blu-Ray DVDs. The digital collection offers a wide variety of digital books, audiobooks, movies, magazines and music that were downloaded 49,610 times. The library increased the multi-language learner collection to better meet our patrons needs and added a new service called *Flipster* that offered a great selection of digital magazines that were easy to download and view. The high cost and limits placed on digital materials limits how much the library can offer. The library also continued to circulate non-traditional items like WiFi Hotspots, lawn games and seeds and will continue to expand this type of collection.
- Library programming was well attended and offered many different options for all ages. Programming was offered in person, virtually and Grab and Go kits. Thanks to a grant from *Triumph Group Foundation Grant* that funded STEM programming and library materials for kids and teens, staff was able to offer a great selection of additional programs to our young patrons. *The Library Speaker Consortium Virtual Author Talks* that offered a series of live and prerecorded virtual author talks was very popular with patrons. For the year, staff offered 744 programs to 22,890 people. Staff also continued to expand outreach efforts with the schools, daycares, senior living facilities and the community. The library now has monthly outreach visits to four Senior Living Facilities in town.

- Several new improvements to the library were completed during the year. New lounge chairs and seating was added to the new book area under the atrium. The children's office and the reference office were redesigned to allow new furniture and additional computers for staff. For the first time, all employees in each office have their own workspace and computers. This was funded by ARPA money. The library had a mold/mildew issue due to high humidity and airflow issues in the adult biography section. The area has to be closed off for several months to remediate the area, clean affected books and delete any that were beyond repair.
- Our Friends group had three very successful fundraisers, *Winterfest 2025*, a wine, beer & spirits tasting fundraising event that sold out in 11 days and two book sales one in the fall of 2024 and spring of 2025. The Library Board of Trustees held the 28th running of the *Newington Library 5K Challenge Road Race* with Marathon Champion and former Newington resident Bill Rodgers running in the race. They also hosted two cultural events with Celtic singer *Dan Ringuose* and a holiday concert with *The Sugartones* as part of the *George G. Hanel Fine Arts Series*, offered an in-person author visit with graphic novel author and illustrator Lauren Tarshis 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 funded the popular circulating WiFi Hotspot program and continued to offer the *Dining Partner Program*.

2025-2026 Goals

In the coming year, we will be focused on refurbishing the Quiet Study area with new furniture as part of an OPM grant, replacing the three self-checkout stations using CIP funds, staying vigilant against the increasing efforts to censor and ban books, continuing to look for grant money to offer new services, and work with the library board towards a possible renovation in the future. And finally, continue to redefine library services and offer the best service to meet the needs of our Newington community.

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.

Open to all persons aged 55 and older and adults with disabilities, the Center identifies eight dimensions of wellness (physical, social, environmental, financial, spiritual, purpose, emotional, and intellectual) that are integral to the activity planning process. Center staff help to improve participants' well-being by providing activities, services and resources in a social setting. It was the first Center in Connecticut to be nationally accredited, received renewed accreditation status in May 2022, and is the designated Community Focal Point for aging services.

2024-2025 Highlights

- Highlighted programs for FY 2024-25 included expert presentations on various topics including: physical and mental health, financial planning, scam prevention, balance and falls prevention, nutrition, arts and culture, socials, coffee hours, tech help, holiday celebrations, bingo and card games, numerous exercise and fitness classes for all levels, pickleball, painting and craft classes, and intergenerational programs.
- The Annual EXPO healthy aging fair took place on November 7, 2024, with over 50 vendors in healthcare, nutrition, finances, housing, and more. Approximately 300 older adults attended the EXPO
- Received \$90,000 in ARPA funding as allocated by the State Unit on Aging in September 2024, to be used. The facility or program improvements related to older adults' health and safety. Planned projects include: raised garden beds in the Giving Garden, additional recumbent exercise equipment, implementation of a portable exercise equipment lending closet, an information campaign, health and safety equipment to be used throughout the Center, and new accessible furniture throughout.
- Held the annual Safety Picnic with fire, police, and EMS personnel cooking and serving lunch while socializing with members. The Police Department provided a brief educational safety presentation.
- The Bus Trip Committee offered day trips to various New England and New York destinations.
- The Center hosted the annual Veterans Day ceremony, working with the Newington Memorial Day parade committee to provide space for the veterans' ceremony and reception.
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- The Center hosted the district-wide Art Show for Newington Public Schools and the Newington Art League in May 2025 and hosted the Fall and Spring Friends of the Library book sales.
- Outreach to members and the community remains a priority. The popular weekly robocall continued throughout the year, reaching over 1,400 members with important information each Friday. Other outreach methods include 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 30-60 individuals aged 60 and older a hot, balanced lunch daily 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 Monday through Thursday serving coffee, light breakfast and lunch, and snacks.
- ** In November 2024, the congregate and Meals on Wheels nutrition programs experienced a significant reduction in federal and State funding, resulting in an approximately 40% decrease in service. However, Center staff have committed to continuing the program in full, without any service cuts to the recipients. The cost to do so averages \$2,000 per week, funded by Council allocations, ARPA funding, donations, grants, and fund-raising. Center staff continues to monitor the situation and plan long-term solutions to address the funding shortage.
- The Center is fortunate to have a dedicated roster of over 75 volunteers, including those in nutrition, technology, tax preparation, the gift shop, coffee shop, gardening, and office assistance.
- Through the Information and Referral Center, more than a thousand residents received 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 from February to April 2025, providing free tax prep to over 200 people.
- Dial-A-Ride provided 6,829 rides (one-way) in town.
- The Center's Giving Garden was fully operable with two leaders and 4-5 volunteers planning, maintaining, and harvesting the garden. Over 500 lbs of organic produce was donated to the Human Services Food Bank.
- Director Jaime Trevethan staffed the Commission on Aging and Disability, served on the Newington Safe Homes Taskforce, as Vice President of the CT Association of Senior Center Professionals, on the LGBTQ+ Movable Senior Center Committee, and on the Age Well Collective Advisory Committee and the Town Center Development Steering Committee.
- Director Trevethan was appointed Newington's Municipal Veterans Representative in June 2025.

Senior and Disabled Center

Senior and Disabled Center Cont..

2024-2025 Highlights cont..

- Director Jaime Trevethan staffed the Commission on Aging and Disability, served on the Newington Safe Homes Taskforce, as Vice President of the CT Association of Senior Center Professionals, on the LGBTQ+ Movable Senior Center Committee, and on the Age Well Collective Advisory Committee and the Town Center Development Steering Committee.
- Director Trevethan was appointed Newington's Municipal Veterans Representative in June 2025.

2025-2026 Goals

- Implement and expand monthly evening programming.
- Work towards sustainable funding for nutrition programs, to include finding cost efficiencies, obtaining grants, sponsorships and donations, and scheduling fundraisers to replace the cut state and federal funding.
- Create a multifaceted informational campaign to educate residents and current members on the Center's services.

Newington Community Services

Parks and Recreation

William DeMaio,
Superintendent

The Town of Newington remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering a vibrant and welcoming community by offering a broad range of recreational opportunities and resources for residents of all ages. This dedication is recognized by the Parks and Recreation Department, which delivers diverse programs, maintains scenic parks, hosts special events, supports sports leagues, and manages facility rentals that enrich the lives of the entire community.

Recreation Division

The Department oversees a variety of facilities, including the pavilions at Churchill Park and Mill Pond Park, the Mortensen Community Center, the Kellogg-Eddy House, and the Municipal Parking Lot. Outdoor swimming is offered during the warmer months at Mill Pond Park and Churchill Park pools, while indoor swimming is available at the Newington High School pool during the fall, winter, and spring. Tennis facilities are located at Churchill Park and Newington High School. Mill Pond Park offers 4 clay and 4 Har-Tru tennis courts by reservation. Pickleball is available at outdoor courts in Churchill Park, Eagle Park, and Little Brook Park as well as on eight indoor courts at the Mortensen Community Center. Golfers can enjoy the scenic 18-hole Indian Hill Golf Course, while nature enthusiasts can explore trails on Cedar Mountain, at Deming-Young Farm, and in Churchill Park. The Town also offers 110 community garden plots at Deming-Young Farm.

The Recreation Division delivers a wide range of leisure programs for all ages and interests. Year-round aquatics are complemented by adult leagues such as Cornhole, Co-ed Volleyball, and Men's Basketball. The Department supports youth sports organizations under the Parks and Recreation umbrella, including T-Ball, Little League, Softball, Challenger Baseball, Wrestling, Soccer, Swim Club, Lacrosse, Travel Basketball, Youth Football, Cheerleading, and Special Olympics. Camp REcreate, a seven-week summer program for children in kindergarten through grade 8, offers structured activities and enrichment opportunities. In addition, the Department offers two weeks of Camp S'more, for children in kindergarten through grade 5, to help working parents care for their children before the start of the school year.

The Summer Concert Series features 20 free performances—Thursday evenings at Mill Pond Park and Sunday afternoons at the Municipal Parking Lot. Collaboration is central to the Department's mission, working closely with the Board of Education, church groups, civic organizations, veterans' groups, local businesses, and other Town departments. The Mortensen Community Center provides a flexible venue for private events, birthday parties, meetings, and sporting activities throughout the year.

The Creative Playtime Preschool Program, licensed by the State of Connecticut, offers educational and nurturing care

for children ages 3 to 5, operating from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The Department also presents beloved community events, including the Water Lantern Festival in May, Newington Goes Country and Food Truck Friday in June, the four-day Life. Be in it. Extravaganza in July—featuring the region's largest fireworks display—and Night of Lights on Main Street in December

2024-2025 Highlights

- Over 800 programs were offered throughout the year, attracting approximately 21,000 registered participants.
- Residents reserved picnic sites at Churchill Park, where over 17,000 visitors enjoyed the park's pavilions.
- Newington gardeners participated in the Community Gardens program at Deming-Young Farm, reserving plots for vegetable growing.
- The Department actively utilized social media as part of a comprehensive strategy to promote programs and events, alongside increased use of the Town website through more newsflashes and alerts.
- The Adult Cornhole League remains one of the most popular adult programs, held Thursday evenings at Mill Pond Park during summer and fall seasons.
- Pickleball clinics, offered in partnership with Camp Pickleball, continued to thrive with sessions for youth and beginner to intermediate adults, addressing the growing community interest in the sport.
- Additional recreation opportunities included 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 annual Night of Lights celebration was also held on Main Street.
- The Creative Playtime Preschool Program attracts over 45 families annually. This state-licensed, comprehensive program housed at the Mortensen Community Center offers flexible scheduling, including morning, afternoon, and full-day sessions. To foster community and family involvement, special events such as a Thanksgiving luncheon, pizza party nights, and a preschool prom were added.
- The Summer Sunshine Program provided a nine-week educational and engaging summer experience for preschool-aged children, modeled after the Creative Playtime Preschool Program. Activities included pool time at the Mill Pond Park wading pool, special events, and guest visitors.
- Year-round aquatics programs were available at Churchill Pool, Mill Pond Pool, and Newington High School's indoor pool. Over the past year, 35 new lifeguards and 10 new swim instructors were certified, serving approximately 4,800 swim lesson participants. The Department also strengthened its partnership with

Newington Community Services

Parks and Recreation

the Newington Swim Club by providing swim lane rentals and lifeguard support, helping grow their program which serves as a feeder system for future aquatics staff.

- Camp RECreate continued to grow, with 560 campers participating throughout the summer. The grades 6-8 site surpassed 100 campers, demonstrating the success and expansion of that program.
- Advertising opportunities in the seasonal program guide were again offered, drawing continued interest from public and private partners including Data-Mail, Church of Christ Congregational, MDC, Happy Harry's Wine and Liquor Warehouse, CMI Sound, Tony Palermino, Jersey Mike's Subs, Haven Hot Chicken, Sports Construction, Sequin Level Lodge No.140, MooYah, The Flash Lady Photography, The Flying Monkey, Kiwanis Club of Newington, Turgeon Insurance Services, Final Cut Sports Barbershop, Cedar Ridge Construction, Calahan's Bowl-O-Rama, iHeart Media, B&M Tree Service LLC, CT Custom Aquatics, Spring Brook Ice & Fuel Service, Tropical Smoothie, and WFSB Channel 3.
- The program guide is mailed directly to over 13,500 households four times a year through the Rare Reminder publication.
- At the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association (CRPA) State Conference awards banquet, the Department was honored with the 2024 Volunteer of the Year Award, presented jointly to Carol Anest and Diana Serra in recognition of their outstanding volunteer partnership.
- The Department continued its tradition of annually recognizing businesses, volunteers, and civic groups with the "Building a Strong Community Special Recognition Awards." This year's recipients included the Kiwanis Club of Newington, Eric O'Neil, Bonavita Luxury Lavs, and B&M Tree Service.

Parks and Grounds Division

The Parks and Grounds Division serves as the steward of Newington's natural and public spaces, providing year-round maintenance across 833 acres of parks and green areas. This includes the management 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 oversees the grounds of three historic properties: the Kellogg-Eddy House, the Kelsey House, and Deming-Young Farm.

Beyond parks, the Division maintains numerous public assets, including the Municipal Parking Lot, town-owned properties in the downtown district, and the grounds surrounding all public buildings. This work encompasses the care of 110 community garden plots, recreation facilities at Churchill Park, the skatepark at Clem Lemire Recreation Complex, two outdoor swimming pools (Churchill Pool and Mill Pond Pool), playgrounds, miles of hiking and biking trails, public

rights-of-way, 64 cul-de-sacs, roadside mowing, flower beds, and 40 decorative planters located along Main Street, Market Square, the Government Center, and other public sites.

The Division enhances public spaces by managing flags, town-wide decorations, and festive lighting for special events. It also maintains the grounds of critical town facilities, including the Police Department, five fire stations, the Senior and Disabled Center, Town Hall, Lucy Robbins Welles Library, the Town Hall Annex building, the ambulance building, seven schools, and two park ponds.

Maintenance responsibilities range from mowing, pruning, trash removal, and leaf collection to preparing athletic fields for use. The Division also performs snow removal for schools, public building parking lots, sidewalks, and designated school walking routes.

An important part of their mission is preserving Newington's urban forest. The Division cares for trees across streets, parks, cemeteries, schools, rights-of-way, and all town-owned properties—an asset valued at approximately \$30 million.

In essence, the Parks and Grounds Division is a vital caretaker of Newington's green spaces and public areas, balancing aesthetic appeal with environmental stewardship to enhance the community's quality of life.

2024-2025 Highlights

- Installed a new accessible playground at Eagle Park, featuring new drainage, pathways, cornhole lanes, a pickleball court, an oversized chess/checkerboard, and color coating of the basketball court.
- Installed a new accessible playground at Seymour Park, including new drainage, pathways, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible grills, new hoops on the basketball court, a bike fixing station, and a bike rack.
- Repaired cracks and fixed leaking pipes at both Mill Pond and Churchill Pools.

Departmental Goals/Projects for 2024-2025

- Install a new handicap accessible playground at Seymour Park.
- Install new signage at Churchill Park, Clem Lemire Recreation Complex, Mill Pond Park and West Meadow Cemetery.
- Host the CRPA Entertainment Showcase in February 2025.
- Expand pickleball programs.
- Recruit more outdoor national sports tournaments.
- Recruit new indoor basketball and volleyball tournaments and rentals.
- Build town-wide economic growth through programming and special events.

Newington Community Services

Parks and Recreation

2024-2025 Highlights cont..

- Painted Mill Pond Pool and Churchill Pool. Installed new signage at all parks, as well as West Meadow Cemetery and the Kellogg Eddy House.
- Completed miles of roadside mowing across town.
- Continued use of the Goosinator to deter resident Canada Geese from parks.
- Installed three tents with stone dust bases at Mill Pond Park for special events, the Life. Be in it. Extravaganza, and summer camp programs.
- Rebuilt bullpen mounds, completed warning track maintenance, and performed limb pruning at Alumni Baseball Field.
- Installed a new scoreboard at Churchill Softball Field in honor of former mayor Elmer Mortensen.
- Provided setup and operational support for numerous community events, including the Water Lantern Festival, Waterfall Festival, Night of Lights, Life. Be in it. Extravaganza, Wreaths Across America, Memorial Day Parade, Summer Concert Series at Mill Pond Park and the Municipal Parking Lot, high school football games, Veterans Day Celebration, CRPA Entertainment Showcase, and more.
- Installed holiday lighting and decorations in the Town center ahead of the Night of Lights event.
- Maintained and operated irrigation systems at Town athletic fields, tennis courts, Lucy Robbins Welles Library, and the Government Center.
- Provided snow and ice removal services for all parks, Town sidewalks, municipal parking lots, Fire and EMS lots, and all Newington Public Schools properties.
- Performed ongoing upkeep and maintenance of the skate park at Clem Lemire Recreation Complex.
- Conducted extensive tree work in preparation for the installation of the new bridge at Mill Pond Falls.
- Resurfaced the observation patio at the base of Mill Pond Falls and installed a new overlay following bridge installation.
- Continued to promote the memorial bench program, with four new memorial benches installed at Mill Pond Falls, and offered a tree dedication program.
- Following vegetation removal for the bridge, established a wildflower mix along the back of Mill Pond in conjunction with the new memorial benches.
- Completed fall clean-up at all Town buildings and provided staff support to the Highway Department for annual curbside leaf collection.
- Continued soccer field enhancement projects, including verti-cutting, aeration, overseeding, topdressing, and fertilization at various fields.
- Removed over a dozen street tree stumps during the winter months.

- Oversaw the maintenance and care of the Town's tree inventory.
- Resurfaced and repainted the basketball court at Candlewyck Park.
- Performed annual setup, tilling, staking, and irrigation for the 110 community garden plots at Deming-Young Farm.
- Removed overgrown vegetation from the Deming-Young Barn.
- Installed over 170 American flags downtown in preparation for Memorial Day.
- Installed and maintained downtown holiday lights and decorations.

Cemetery Division

The Cemetery Division is charged with the important responsibility of maintaining the sanctity and integrity of three prominent cemeteries in Newington: Church Street Cemetery, Center Cemetery, and West Meadow Cemetery. Its duties include the sale of burial plots, management of interments, meticulous record-keeping, and ongoing grounds maintenance. Additionally, the Division undertakes comprehensive research and provides prompt, informative responses to inquiries from residents and families regarding cemetery-related matters. Through these efforts, the Cemetery Division upholds a standard of respect and reverence, ensuring the dignified stewardship of these sacred sites.

2024-2025 Highlights

- In September, West Meadow Cemetery, in collaboration with Newington Memorial Funeral Home, once again hosted a successful Cherish Our Children ceremony.
- In December, West Meadow Cemetery proudly participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony, conducted by local veterans in conjunction with the nationwide Wreaths Across America Organization. A total of 123 interments were performed at West Meadow Cemetery, consisting of 55 cremations, 49 single-depth burials, and 19 double-depth burials. Of these, 89 took place on weekdays, 30 on Saturdays, and 4 on Sundays or holidays.
- Center Cemetery recorded 4 interments, consisting of 2 cremations and 2 single-depth burials. Of these, 2 were performed on weekdays and 2 on Saturdays, with none on Sundays or holidays.

Newington Community Services






















































Parks and Recreation

Cemetery Division cont..

- One disinterment was conducted at West Meadow Cemetery. Seventy graves were sold at West Meadow Cemetery.
- Overgrown vegetation was removed from the south fence line at Center Cemetery, significantly enhancing its appearance.
- The final row of foundations was completed in Section F as part of the current expansion project at West Meadow Cemetery.
- Extensive tree pruning was carried out at West Meadow Cemetery.
- West Meadow Cemetery remains a busy and active site, managed diligently by the Parks and Recreation staff. On average, staff facilitates more than two burials and one to two grave sales per week, working closely with local funeral homes to ensure the seamless administration of funeral services. The staff maintains 10 acres of meticulously manicured turf and landscaped grounds at the Town cemeteries.

Departmental Goals/Projects for 2025–2026

- Install a new accessible playground at Candlewyck Park.
- Install new basketball courts at Starr Park and Seymour Park.
- Complete irrigation installation and field renovations at McCusker Field at Anna Reynolds School.
- Explore the purchase and installation of an autonomous mower for use in the courtyard at Anna Reynolds School.
- Construct a new staircase at Mill Pond Falls.
- Increase recruitment of outdoor state and national sports tournaments.
- Expand recruitment of indoor basketball and volleyball tournaments and facility rentals.
- Foster town-wide economic growth through programming and special events.
- Host the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association (CRPA) Entertainment Showcase in February 2026.

PARKS IN NEWINGTON	Baseball	Softball	Playground	Multuse Fields*	Tennis	Pool	Volleyball Bocce	Basketball	Trails	Ice Skating	Picnic Shelter	Water Features	Skatepark	Pickleball
Badger Field - <i>Walsh Avenue</i>														
Beacon Park - <i>Beacon Street</i>														
Beechwood Park - <i>Woodbridge Road</i>														
Candlewyck Park - <i>Lamplighter Lane</i>														
Churchill Park - <i>Main Street</i>														
Clem Lemire - <i>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:

- 65 Ashland Avenue, Single Family residence
- 200 Church Street, Single Family residence
- 57 Harding Avenue, Single Family residence
- 15 Peckham Farm Road, Single Family residence
- 25 Peckham Farm Road, Single Family residence
- 35 Peckham Farm Road, Single Family residence
- 90 Peckham Farm Road, Single Family residence
- 39 Robbins Avenue, Single Family residence
- 550 Cedar Street, Cedar Pointe (2) 36 unit apartment buildings & clubhouse
- 96 Pane Road, 92 unit apartment building
- 100 Pane Road, 92 unit apartment building
- 227-231 Pane Road, (2) 75 unit apartment buildings

Commercial Certificates of Occupancy issued in this fiscal year:

- 712 Cedar Street, WoodSpring Suites Hotel
- 187 Costello Road, 80 X 40 additional building
- 12 Fenn Road, Unit E, tenant fit-out
- 16 Fenn Road, Flash Car Wash
- 100 Garfield Street, storage shed at Lucy Robbins Library
- 287 Main Street, renovations
- 67 Pane Road, tenant fit-out
- 77 Pane Road, Safe Splash Swim School and SBS Realty
- 2585 Berlin Turnpike, tenant fit-out, temporary holiday store
- 2600 Berlin Turnpike, tenant fit-out, pet store
- 2661 Berlin Turnpike, dispensary facility
- 2929 Berlin Turnpike, tenant fit-out
- 3025 Berlin Turnpike, tenant fit-out
- 3313 Berlin Turnpike, tenant fit-out, retail
- 3313 Berlin Turnpike, tenant fit-out, chiropractic care office
- 3313 Berlin Turnpike, tenant fit-out, coffee shop

A total of 31 Certificates of Occupancy were issued from July 2024 to June 2025:

- Single-Family Residence Certificate of Occupancy – 8 issued
- Residential Apartment Buildings and Clubhouse - 6 issued
- Commercial Certificate of Occupancy – 17 issued

2025-2026 Goals

- 301 Hartford Avenue, steel framed fabric building
- 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

Statistical Summary July 1, 2024 — June 30, 2025

Type of Permits	#	Value of Permits
Additions	373	\$11,365,509.00
Decks	41	96,300.00
Demolition	12	423,025.00
Electrical	578	8,580,354.00
Fence	0	0.00
Fire Suppression/Sprinkler	0	0.00
Footing/Foundation	1	9,500.00
Fuel Tank	7	14,317.00
Garages/Sheds	9	125,933.00
Mechanical	422	5,245,049.00
New Commercial	12	92,710,598.00
New Municipal	1	8,310,568.00
New Residential	6	1,560,673.00
Plumbing	244	2,544,643.00
Pools	23	368,299.00
Roofing/Siding	422	9,828,801.00
Sign	36	332,483.00
Solar	47	610,226.00
Tent	5	19,619.00
Other	0	0.00
Totals	2239	\$142,145,897.00

Other Income Received	Amount
Town Plan and Zoning Application Fees	\$ 10,920.00
Environmental Fees	2,040.00
Conservation Commission Application Fees	3,880.00
Zoning Board of Appeals	820.00
Copies, Books and Maps	894.00
Work in Right of Way	10,650.00
Engineering Copies	570.00
Total	\$29,774.00

Income Received from Permit Fees \$1,025,119.00
Total Income \$1,054,893.00

Number of Inspections

2572

Newington Planning & Development

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 that seek various types of zoning approval, as well as vigorous enforcement of the zoning regulations and the Town of Newington's blight ordinance.

The Department also prepares State and Federal grant applications.

Mission

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

2024-2025 Highlights

Town Plan and Zoning Commission:

During this fiscal year, the TPZ received 3 Pre-Applications and 22 petitions for Special Permits, Site Plan Approvals, Zoning Amendments and various Town Referrals, including the following:

- **Site Plan Approval/Modification:**
7 Commercial and Residential site plan approvals and modifications including: fraternal organization, external elevator, change of access and parking lot reconfigurations.
- **Special Permit Approvals:**
9 Special Permits including new restaurant, year-round pickleball courts, motor vehicle sales & repairs, and a drive through restaurant.
- **Zoning Text Amendments:**
3 Zoning Text Amendments: Add Sec. 6.1.L Electric Vehicle Parking Requirements, Add Sec. 6.9 Alternative Energy Accessory Structures, (Section 6.1.1C) Parking Spaces for All Other Uses, add Indoor Retail Showrooms.
- **Free Standing Signs:**
2

- **CGS Section 8-24 Referral:**
2 - Budney Road Stub, and Garfield Street Community Connectivity Project

The Town Plan and Zoning Commission received \$2,885.00 in application fees.

Conservation Commission:

During this fiscal year the Conservation Commission received approximately 19 petitions; 10 of those were agent approvals, and 9 were heard by the Commission. The Conservation Commission received \$4,500.00 in application fees.

Economic Development Commission:

The Economic Development Commission held 12 regular meetings during the fiscal year. The Commission ran a successful small business passport program in November and December.

Zoning Board of Appeals:

During this fiscal year the ZBA received 5 Petitions, 3 approved and 2 withdrawn. The Department collected \$1600.00 in ZBA application fees this fiscal year.

Affordable Housing Monitoring Agency: Administrative Activities:

This agency held a meeting on January 22, 2025 and approved a Notice of Transfer For "53 Hopkins Drive".

Administrative Activities:

Obtained a SHPO grant to conduct a Historic Resource Inventory and a SS4A grant for Cedar Street.

Zoning Enforcement - During this fiscal year the Zoning Enforcement Officer:

- Investigated and acted upon 211 zoning complaints
- Issued 334 Zoning approvals
- Received 1297 questions or complaints about zoning regulations, blight complaints or property information
- Issued 54 Notices of Zoning Violations
- Removed 779 Illegal signs from Town Right of Way
- Closed 75 Zoning complaints
- Issued 2 cease & desist orders, and 1 citation order

Engineering Department

**Chris Zibbideo,
Town Engineer**

FUNCTIONS:

- Support economic development, public works, and public safety work groups.
- Oversee construction and maintenance of town infrastructure (roads, bridges, sidewalks, parking lots, storm drainage, dams, etc).
- Advise Town Council, Conservation Commission and Town Plan and Zoning Commission regarding public safety, traffic safety, compliance with Town regulations (site geometry, grading, drainage).
- Provide survey, design (engineering analysis and evaluation) and environmental services.
- Prepare engineering recommendations, plans, and estimates for Town infrastructure improvements.
- Perform site, topographic, boundary and construction surveys and prepare engineering drawings for TON infrastructure improvements.
- Represent TON interests on state (CDOT) projects and utility projects in Newington.
- Facilitate public outreach for high profile/impact infrastructure projects in Newington.
- Represent TON at utility and CDOT meetings, and coordinated with adjacent towns regarding multi-town projects.
- Archive TON 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 TON infrastructure.
- Administer engineering permits for work in TON right-of-way.
- Research and provide engineering data to town attorney to defense TON against lawsuits.
- Staff Liaison to Conservation Commission, Wetlands Agent.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS 2024-2025:

- Hired an Assistant Town Engineer and Engineering Technician to fully staff the department.
- Completed construction of a \$3.3M complete streets project on the Maple Hill Avenue and Robbins Avenue, final items in 2025-2026 FY.
- Worked with Highway Superintendent to hire a consultant to update our road RSR database and Road Surface Rating Plan. Our existing database has not been formally updated in many years.
- Performed site, topographic, boundary and construction surveys and prepared engineering drawings and cost estimates for TON projects and BOE projects.
- Held public outreach meetings for the Camp Avenue project. Advised Council on recommended plan of action.
- Replaced the Mill Pond pedestrian bridge over the Mill Pond Falls.

PROJECTS:

- Manage grant projects:
 - \$80k 2017 Community Connectivity Grant – Garfield Street.
 - \$3,340k 2018 LOTCIP Grant – Maple Hill Avenue and Robbins Avenue Complete Street Project.
 - \$300k STEAP grant – Mill Pond Park pedestrian bridge.
- Manage grant applications:
 - \$4,200k 2020 LOTCIP Grant – Maple Hill Avenue and Alumni Avenue Complete Street Project.
 - \$2,175k 2022 LOTCIP Grant – Episcopal Road and Rowley Street Improvements partnered with Town of Berlin.
 - \$500k 2020 Urban Action Grant – South End (Elm Hill) Business District Streetscape Project, partnered with Planning.
 - \$800k 2020 Urban Action Grant – North End Business District Streetscape Project, partnered with Planning.
 - \$68k CDEEP VW Settlement Grant for EV charging stations
 - \$20k Eversource Rebate for EV charging stations
- Manage CIP projects:
- Surveyed and designed Cedarwood storm drain replacement.
- Surveyed and designed storm drain replacement for Standard and Evergreen Streets.
- Surveyed and designed storm drain improvements on Carr Avenue with the Highway Department
- Replaced 100 LF of retaining wall on Ct. Ave with the Highway Department.
- Contracted the construction of the Alumni Road right in right out island to remove the Alumni Road gate.
- Contracted the replacement of storm drainage on Culver Street at Cobblestone Court.
- Maintained the sidewalk pavers at Market Square.
- Repaired approx. 50 tripping hazards on public sidewalks as part of our sidewalk maintenance program.

STATISTICAL SUMMARIES:

- 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 BOE.

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.

2024-2025 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.
- Conducted annual roadway condition evaluations in preparation for milling and paving
- Assisted Traffic Division with repairs and upgrades to town traffic signals
- Continued oversight of all departmental construction projects.
- Coordinated and provided oversight for paving parking lot at Elizabeth Green School
- Twenty-seven (27) roads totaling approximately 6 miles were milled and paved along with drainage improvements and catch basin repairs on various roads.
- Coordinated crack sealing of approximately 14.5 miles of road
- Completed repairs or rebuilds on over 100 catch basins throughout town
- Installed concrete block retaining wall on Connecticut Ave
- Completed major drainage improvements on Carr Ave and Meadow St.
- Paved ADA compliant parking space at Seymour Park
- Completed town-wide roadside tree trimming and vegetation control during the winter months.
- Highway Department personnel collected over 11,000 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 5 snow/ice events totaling over 29" of snow and ice.
- Highway personnel responded to 10 after hour call-ins
- Mechanic personnel responded to 14 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 and vegetation control.

- Coordinated Transfer Station operations and management of the Town's Recycling Center where residents may dispose of as metal appliances, scrap metal, propane tanks, used motor oil, automotive batteries, single stream recycling, covered electronic devices, textiles and mattresses/boxsprings.
- Vegetation grinding completed twice during the year by a private contractor with assistance from Highway personnel and equipment.
- 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 9,348 residential homes and 2,240 condominiums and elderly housing complexes totaling approximately 9,504 tons of residential municipal solid waste brought to Murphy Road Recycling of Hartford for fiscal year 2024/2025. In addition, 1,442 household bulky waste items, 254 condominium bulky waste items and 266 combined metal items were collected curbside throughout the year. Twenty-one (21) television sets over 19" were collected and recycled. Forty (40) tons of mattresses and box springs were recycled through the Town's Transfer Station.
- Private contractors collect recyclables at 11,586 residential homes, condominiums and elderly housing complexes. Recyclables were brought to Murphy Road Recycling of Hartford for processing. Over 2,134 tons of recyclables were collected curbside for fiscal year 2024/2025.
- 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.

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
- Memorial Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

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

WHEN IN DOUBT, PUT IT OUT

Newington Public Works Information

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**

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 storm-water 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

**Christopher Perry,
Chief of Police**

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

The Newington Police Department consists of 48 full time police officers, 14.5 civilian employees and 1 animal control officer. The department’s commitment to the community is to preserve peace and public order, provide community assistance and engagement, 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.

2024-2025 Highlights

Department Staffing:

During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the department hired eight new police officers. Officers Mark Addamo, Anthony Cascone, Ryan Dougherty, Pablo Flores-Torres, and Joseph Morelli are entry level recruits while Officers Daniel Pekoske, Alex Clifford, and Jonathan Sykes were hired as certified police officers who transferred from other police departments. The department also made five promotions. Sergeant Scott Amalfi was promoted to Lieutenant, Officers Bugbee, Cappiello, and Gore were promoted to the rank of Sergeant, and Officer Rich Petoskey was promoted to the rank of Master Police Officer. We’ve reinstated the K-9 program with the procurement of “K-9 Ray” who is assigned to handler Nicholas Casasanta. We added task force officers to the FBI, DEA, and Hartford Regional Auto Theft unit.

Department Activity:

During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Newington Police Department responded to 27,281 calls for service. The department investigated 3,567 criminal offenses and made 1,122 criminal arrests. The department investigated 1,136, traffic accidents, which resulted in 161 injuries. There were two fatal accidents. The department made 4,660 traffic stops, with 117 operators failing to pull over. We arrested 63 motorists for driving while under the influence of alcohol/drugs. We have successfully re-implemented the K9 program and are seeing immediate benefits to having this tool at our disposal.

Police Department Training:

The police department recorded approximately 4729 hours in officer training during the 2024-2025 fiscal period, which is a decrease of 75 hours from the previous year. Firearms instructors attended a mounted optic training to help transition the police department to mounted optics for rifles. Officers attended a week-long Crisis Intervention Training. Multiple supervisors attended first line supervisor training. The training division continued to supplement training utilizing the

Police One Academy platform to provide consistent online training.

Department Goals and Projects:

The police department is hoping to finalize the remaining details of the town-wide radio project, as this endeavor is near completion. The department continued to work on the installation of traffic cameras to cover eight of the busier intersections in town. These cameras are designed to provide LPR and CCTV services. Five of the eight intersections are operable with CCTV capability, with LPR functionality coming soon. We continue to develop the refreshed Police Community Council, with new and existing members selected and the new policy completed which adheres to state statute. We now have to set the schedule of meetings with the Town Clerk. The department is in talks with Berlin PD and Rocky Hill PD to start a regional police cadet program. Berlin PD already has a successful and robust program in place, and both NPD and Rocky Hill PD see the value of the program and hope to regionalize the unit to benefit all agencies and provide this opportunity to Newington’s youth.



*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.

2024-2025 Highlights

Significant Fire Incidents:

- November 13, 2024 – 80 Cornish Drive
- November 16, 2024 – 52 Clarendon Terrace
- January 11, 2025 – 260 Stamm Road
- January 24, 2025 – 145 Starr Avenue
- April 17, 2025 – 1439 Willard Avenue
- May 1, 2025 – 605 Willard Avenue
- June 9, 2025 – 324 Alumni Road
- June 29, 2005 – 43 Richard Street

Ford F-150 Fire Marshal vehicle, set up with equipment for both code enforcement and fire investigations



Significant Activities:

- The Fire Marshal’s Office and Office of Emergency Management brought on an Administrative Aide II to support both offices operations. This is a 60/40 salary split.
- The FMO staff were able to complete 100% of residential inspections and continue to work on inspecting all of the remaining occupancies. The overall compliance for all occupancies is approximately 69% complete.
- FMO staff conducted a total of 1,679 inspection activities which are outlined below.
- 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	24/25
Inspections	1237
Reinspection	115
Plan Reviews	70
Fire Investigations	32
Referral/Complaints	17
Consultations	62
Safe Home Inspections & Follow Ups	26
Blast Monitoring	1



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 was very proud to announce receiving the ISO Class 2 rating, being the only volunteer fire department in Connecticut to achieve this rating and 1 of 2 in New England. This is something all residents and business will benefit from. The Fire Department was the recipient of the Public Safety Award from the Chamber of Commerce for the second year in a row. Something our entire membership are extremely proud of.
- Department Inc. was able to make improvements to the Fire Museum with a complete painting and restoration to the interior and exterior of the building. The work on the restoration of one of the original Buffalo motors is nearing completion.
- The training division has been very busy this year with a variety of outside training on bail out rescue systems, Preparing for Roof Prop, training tower improvements, CPR/AED Training, CIRMA Sexual Harassment, CT Fire Academy Classes hosted in Newington (Instructor and Fire Officer 1), HAZMAT Training, and officer development.
- The Fire Department was able to continue with Community Events as regular. 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, Stew Leonard's turkey give away, Hospital for Special Care, Newington Extravaganza as well as many others. CP8 was also deployed at multiple events throughout the state to assist other communities. Plainville Balloon Festival stand-by (two days). The Fire Prevention Bureau also continued their annual school Fire Prevention visits.

- 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 and by other area departments.

FY 2024-2025 Statistics

1	Fire	109
2	Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	9
3	Rescue and Emergency Medical Service Incident	27
4	Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	149
5	Service Call	161
6	Good Intent Call	107
7	False Alarm and False Call	324
8	Severe Weather and Natural Disaster	7
9	Special Incident Type	8
Total Volume		901

NFD has seen an increase in calls from 846 23/24 to 901 24/25

Mutual Aid Provided to— Berlin, Cromwell, Rocky Hill, Plainville, Wethersfield, West Hartford – 25
Supporting Wethersfield Fire Dept. during LODD

FY 2024-2025 Total Summary

Incidents= 901

Community Engagement Events – 28 Events

Community Engagement Hours – 642 Hours

Total Volunteer hours (non-Incident) = 25,660 Hours

Training Hours =11,350

Community Engagement Hours = 642

Misc. Engineer Inspections, Cleanups, Company meetings, Administrative = 13667.75

Department Strength= 98 Regular members, 14 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

NPS engages and empowers students to lead academically successful, socially responsible, compassionate, and purposeful lives. We will foster a thriving learning community that cultivates growth through:

Engaged Learning – provide students rigorous instruction (highly academic learning experiences) that is connected to their lived experiences and the real world making learning valuable and relevant.

Empowering - Instruction affirms, creates a sense of social and emotional safety and honors all students and communities of color including their ethnic, racial, and linguistic identities and develops all students' abilities to recognize and critique social inequities.

Vision

Every day, every NPS student is actively being equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to become a contributing member of their community, while being highly prepared to thrive in life, and pursue their career or college aspirations upon 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.*

2024-2025 Highlights:

ANNA REYNOLDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL –
Mr. Jason Smith, Principal

The 2024-2025 school year was an exciting time for Anna Reynolds. Our PreK students returned after a two year tem-

porary stay at other schools, and we welcomed a resource room K-4 extension class for students with special needs into our fully renovated building. In September, we were able to showcase our new building to both the community and our families during our annual Open House.

We also re-did our behavioral expectations introducing the concepts of being a Tiger. Tigers are Kind, Engaged, Inclusive and Responsible. The year ended with our annual field day and Celebration of Learning to celebrate all the accomplishments of our students. 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."

Our school focus for 2024-25 was:

- To combine culturally responsive teaching practices with evidence-based practices from the science of reading and SEL instruction, and explicitly teach behavioral expectations through engagement in anti-racist routines for learning, structure and accountability.

In order to:

- Create a supportive, safe, and inclusive learning environment where students feel identity-safe, supported, and empowered to learn, leading to improved academic outcomes and overall school success.

To accomplish these goals, we:

- Improve our ability to critically interrogate our pedagogy and practices for anti-racist instruction to ensure that we are culturally responsive, asset based thinkers striving towards achieving equity.
- Introducing a new teacher evaluation system that was focused on personalized learning opportunities and teacher growth
- Analyze student work for who is benefiting and not benefiting from our instruction.
- Utilize revised EIP process to focus on asset based thinking and culturally responsive pedagogy
- Improve our knowledge of culturally responsive teaching practices and evidence based practices from the science of reading (Culturally Responsive Pedagogy for Academics)
- Implement a new Reading Program (Benchmark)
- Enhance our small group instruction in reading
- Enhance staff's ability to create and maintain a supportive and inclusive learning environment that supports a sense of belonging and fosters student engagement and academic success (Discipline and SEL).
- Introduce four new behavioral expectations
- Develop and implement a positive behavior recognition system
- Develop a structure for collecting and analyzing disciplinary data.

Newington Public Schools

ELIZABETH GREEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – Mr. James Marciano, Principal

The 24-25 school year was an exciting year for the Elizabeth Green community.

Our school goals for 2023-2024 were:

- Continue building our school community structures.
- Implement culturally relevant pedagogy across all areas.
- Create a discipline program with an equity lens.

Performance goals in both math and reading were partially met. We saw academic performance improvement in Grades K-2. Grades 3 and 4 maintained their previous levels.

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 The Learning Pit and our new reading program, Benchmark.
- continued using the Courageous Conversation framework as a tool for discussing race.
- utilized co-teaching initiative in grades 1, 3, and 4.
- continued working in coaching sessions with SERC in support of co-teaching.
- maintained our student safety and leadership patrol made up of fourth graders who were responsible for helping staff during arrival, dismissal, and on buses and vans.
- 12 racially diverse students participated in an after-school leadership program whereby they learned valuable leadership skills.
- communicated weekly with stakeholders regarding a number of school-based happenings/initiatives.
- 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.
- created a Parent Equity Team that met bi-monthly and discussed issues that affect all students and looked at ways to address them.

The year ended with exciting news as the 24-25 NPS Teacher of the Year was one of our own, Antwanette Serrano.

JOHN PATERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – Ms. Arleen Torres Ruiz, Principal

Last school year was a year of transition and big changes. We continued to build on the foundation laid in previous years, while also making small steps for change. We made meaningful progress toward our equity-centered vision. Un-

der new leadership focused on inclusivity and high expectations, we moved from planning to action, implementing systems that support all students as well as creating structures that build our school community.

Our 2024–2025 School Goal:

To establish equity-driven Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), implement culturally relevant pedagogy, and apply a discipline approach rooted in equity and restorative practices—eliminating disparities so that all students succeed, regardless of race.

To accomplish this, we worked on:

1. Equity-Driven PLCs

Teachers engaged in collaborative planning through an equity lens. While navigating the *Benchmark Advance* curriculum, teams explored diverse texts and themes, fostering inclusive instruction and creating opportunities for meaningful student engagement.

2. Culturally Relevant Pedagogy

Our shift to *Benchmark*-aligned instruction with the science of reading and culturally relevant practices. The “Exploring Perspectives” piece aimed to elevate student identity and agency in learning.

3. Discipline Through an Equity Lens

We developed a behavior matrix to guide staff and student expectations. Using referral data, we identified trends, addressed implicit bias, and focused on adult response and student learning. Our SEL team reinforced schoolwide expectations, Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful, leading to clearer procedures and stronger student supports.

Impact:

- Teachers navigated through their undertaking of cultural competence and instructional equity by using Benchmark
- Students experienced representation and access to learning
- Discipline data-informed adult practices, leading to an awareness of adult responses

School climate improved through aligned SEL practices and a clearer understanding of our 3 school-wide expectations

We are proud of the strides made this year and remain committed to building a school where every child feels seen, valued, and empowered to thrive.

Newington Public Schools

RUTH CHAFFEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – Mr. James Marciano, Principal

Our school goals for 2024-2025 were:

- 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)

Our school has made progress toward our academic goals, with 78% of students meeting the reading benchmark and 74% meeting the math benchmark. While we are proud of our work and progress, the data also highlights the persistent opportunity gap among our students. As our results show, significant disparities exist between racial and ethnic groups in both reading and math. We remain committed to making the reduction of these gaps a central focus of our ongoing school improvement efforts.

At Chaffee, we are driven by the moral imperative to ensure every student succeeds. Our 25-26 school improvement plan is a focused commitment to eliminate racial disparities in student performance and create a truly inclusive, affirming, and equitable learning environment for all. We believe that when every student's identity is valued, they are positioned for academic and personal success.

The heart of this work is our Professional Learning Community (PLC). Through consistent cycles of learning and critical examination of our practices, we are building our collective efficacy—the shared, unshakable belief that we, as educators, have the power and responsibility to make a decisive difference for our students. Research shows that educator efficacy is a leading predictor of student success.

Our overarching goal is to reduce the opportunity gap for our historically marginalized students. We intend to:

- Increase the number of students performing at or above standard on multiple measures.
- Erase the predictability of the racial performance gap.
- Ensure all students make measured progress toward their academic goals.
- Reduce referral rates and improve school climate as measured by surveys.

To achieve this, our work will focus on two interconnected, evidence-based strategies:

1. **Culturally Relevant Practices:** We will intentionally integrate content and teaching methods that are relevant to our students' cultures and backgrounds. This approach affirms student

identities and makes learning more meaningful. For the 2025-26 school year, we will identify, implement, and analyze the impact of these practices.

2. **Restorative Practices:** We are shifting from punitive disciplinary measures to relationship-centered, restorative strategies. This creates a safer and more supportive school climate for everyone. Our focus for 2025-26 will be on using proactive strategies, such as community-building circles, to foster a stronger sense of belonging.

This plan will be put into action through our PLCs, where staff will interrogate their practices to ensure they are culturally responsive and engaging. All staff will receive training in proactive restorative strategies and will use data from student assessments and school climate surveys to continually reflect on our impact and refine our approach. We are confident that this shared commitment will lead to improved student engagement and better outcomes for every child.

JOHN WALLACE MIDDLE SCHOOL – Mr. Daniel A. Dias, Principal

Throughout the 2024-2025 school year, the JWMS learning community maintained our efforts to and focus on our goal: **Create learning experiences that are rigorous, responsive and engaging for all, some and individual students.**

Our amazing staff once again focused on establishing high expectations, building strong relationships and making connections with all of our students. We continue our focus on building our “Culture of Equity”. Our school focus for 2024-25 is listed below:

- **JWMS staff continue to explore culturally relevant pedagogy and demonstrate application of culturally responsive teaching in practice of academic instruction, social emotional learning (SEL) and discipline.**
- **JWMS staff continue to deepen understanding of the coherence of our three pillars (SEL, academics discipline) in relation to our culture of equity.**

Newington Public Schools

Some of the highlights of the 2024-2025 John Wallace School Year include:

- Completed the transition towards mastery-based learning instruction and reporting practices.
- A continued focus on transparency and communication. We established a JWMS Parent Equity Committee this school year. Stakeholders in this group were updated throughout the year on our learning and equity efforts and stakeholders were partners in creating and establishing our three behavioral expectations for the JWMS Community: Respectful, Responsible and Mindful
- We continue to build school events that honor and celebrate our diverse community. Use of our language line and Parentsquare for immediate translation allow us to communicate with all stakeholders and break down language barriers. Shifting our Weekly Newsletter to Parentsquare now affords all families the opportunity to translate weekly school communications.
- We continue to hone and build our advisory period with a focus on Social Emotional Learning. Our staff SEL and Discipline committees are integral to this work. They volunteer their time monthly to create, design and plan for implementation or our Advisory lessons for the entire JWMS community.
- One of our proudest accomplishments continues for a second year as an officially designated No Place For Hate School and our partnership with the Anti-Defamation League. We continue the tradition of No Place for Hate Week the week before Thanksgiving. This is a celebration of our school community and a strengthening of our shared focus on No Place for Hate.
- Weekly PLC (Professional Learning Community) meetings were supported by Wallace administration, coordinators, and coaches. Our Problem of Practice meetings afford staff the opportunity to collaborate and problem solve with staff experts and we continue to utilize grade level PLC time to 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. We saw great gains this year in both reading and math data on our district benchmarks and our SBA data.
- Major gains in achievement on the Smarter Balanced and NGSS 2025 assessments. In addition, we are closing opportunity gaps. The fourth 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 Safe School Climate Committee.

- Our community was thrilled when Marco Tirillo, JWMS Assistant Principal was named the CAS Connecticut Assistant Principal of the Year. This was a first for our district and we are very proud of Mr. Tirillo. He has had the opportunity to showcase our students, our work and our community not only at the state level, but nationally at the NASSP conference in Seattle.
- Mr. Tirillo and I were also very proud to continue to present our leadership and equity efforts at professional conferences. This year we highlighted our leadership and work at JWMS at the CAS Annual Leadership Conference with our presentation: *Leading for Equity: Empowering Staff to Lead the Work* and at the SERC 2025 Dismantling Systemic Racism Conference in Hartford with our presentation: *Disrupting the Culture Around Discipline*. Our presentations/sharing of our leadership in equity received a great response and we have begun partnerships with schools and principals across the state and country.

MARTIN KELLOGG MIDDLE SCHOOL – Mr. Jason S. Lambert – Principal

During the 2024–2025 school year, the Martin Kellogg Middle School (MKMS) community continued to advance its commitment to equity, belonging, and academic excellence. Our work was grounded in the belief that all students deserve access to culturally relevant, rigorous, and meaningful learning experiences that reflect their identities, challenge their thinking, and foster personal and academic growth.

Our Continuous Improvement Plan centered on three foundational priorities: Culturally Responsive Teaching, Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), and Equitable Discipline. These priorities served as the framework for professional learning, school-based leadership teams, and classroom practice, and were grounded in Zaretta Hammond's "Ready for Rigor" framework and the district's equity commitments. Our efforts included:

- Launching the MKMS School-Based Equity Leadership Team (SELT) to guide and support schoolwide implementation of culturally responsive, SEL, and restorative practices.
- Engaging staff in ongoing learning about racial consciousness, culturally relevant pedagogy, and equitable discipline practices through professional learning communities (PLCs), schoolwide professional development, and team-based inquiry cycles.
- Establishing Tier 1 systems of support for SEL and discipline through the work of our School Climate Subcommittees.

Newington Public Schools

Public Schools Cont..

- Centering student voice and lived experience in classroom curriculum and schoolwide decision-making.

NEWINGTON HIGH SCHOOL – Ms. Terra Tigno, Principal

At Newington High School our mission remains rooted in closing the opportunity gap by ensuring every student has access to high-quality instruction. This includes the use of content expertise and culturally relevant pedagogy in lesson planning and delivery, the consistent implementation of Tier I instructional practices across academics, behavior, and social-emotional learning, and a sustained commitment to fostering a culture of belonging for both students and staff.

The 2024–2025 school year continued this important work with an intentional focus on supporting students and families. Staff prioritized building connections and creating engaging and relevant learning experiences designed to eliminate barriers to success and ensure all learners are equipped to achieve the competencies outlined in the district's Portrait of the Graduate.

In addition to academic growth, our Family of Learners proudly participated in a variety of community service projects, field-based learning experiences, and school-wide celebrations that reflected both achievement and school spirit.

Highlights of the 2024-2025 school year include:

- Terra Tigno was named Connecticut High School Principal of the Year.
- Number of Scholarships offered for 2025: 59, Number of Recipients that received a Scholarship: 84, Amount of monies awarded was: \$135,500.
- 1,394 - College Applications were submitted this school year.
- The class of 2025 took 2,989 college credits during their high school career, which is approximately \$1,408,132 in college savings.
- The Wellness Department had two teachers, Jeff Brunetti and Kaitlyn Costanzo, get certified to teach an ECE Wellness course at NHS that will allow students to earn college credit beginning in the 2025-2026 school year.
- Our Multilingual Learner population continues to grow. We had 63 students from over 10 different countries receiving direct EL this year. The ML department works with these students, in addition to supporting students who have exited the program and are on Monitor status, in all their content classes. The ML department provides direct English language instruction, as well as push in support in Math, Science, Health and

Social Studies classes. Several Social Studies teachers have been trained in how to work with MLs and teach specific classes designed to meet these students' instructional needs.

- 73 students were inducted into the Art National Honor Society
- In the CTE Department, students earned 346 free college credits for Marketing, Finance, Accounting and Computer Science classes through the College and Career Pathways Program.
- The Art Department designed a new course: Jewelry II which will be offered in the 2025-2026 school year.
- The Music Department had a very successful year filled with multiple Choir, Band, and Orchestra performances that showcased our students' talents. This year's musical, Once Upon a Mattress, was a great success and well received by the community. We bid a fond farewell to Mr. Clark, who retired after 22 incredible years directing our choirs and musicals. Congratulations to the 14 students who auditioned and were accepted to Regionals, with 2 advancing to All-State—an impressive achievement for our program!
- This school year, the Math Department offered for the first time our new AP Pre-Calculus course. 48 AP exams were taken this spring, and 100% of our students that tested scored a 3 or higher! This was a great start for a brand new course. In the 24-25 school year, we offered two sections of AP Pre-Calculus, and for the 2526 school year, this has grown to 3 sections.
- Newington High School School Profile - some highlights: 88% of the AP scores were three or higher. The total number of scholars is 79. 42 AP Scholars, 23 AP Scholars with Honors and 14 AP Scholars with Distinction.

Boards and Commissions

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.

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.

Boards and Commissions

Cont...

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

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

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

BOARD OF ETHICS

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

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.

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

Boards and Commissions

Boards and Commissions Cont...

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 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

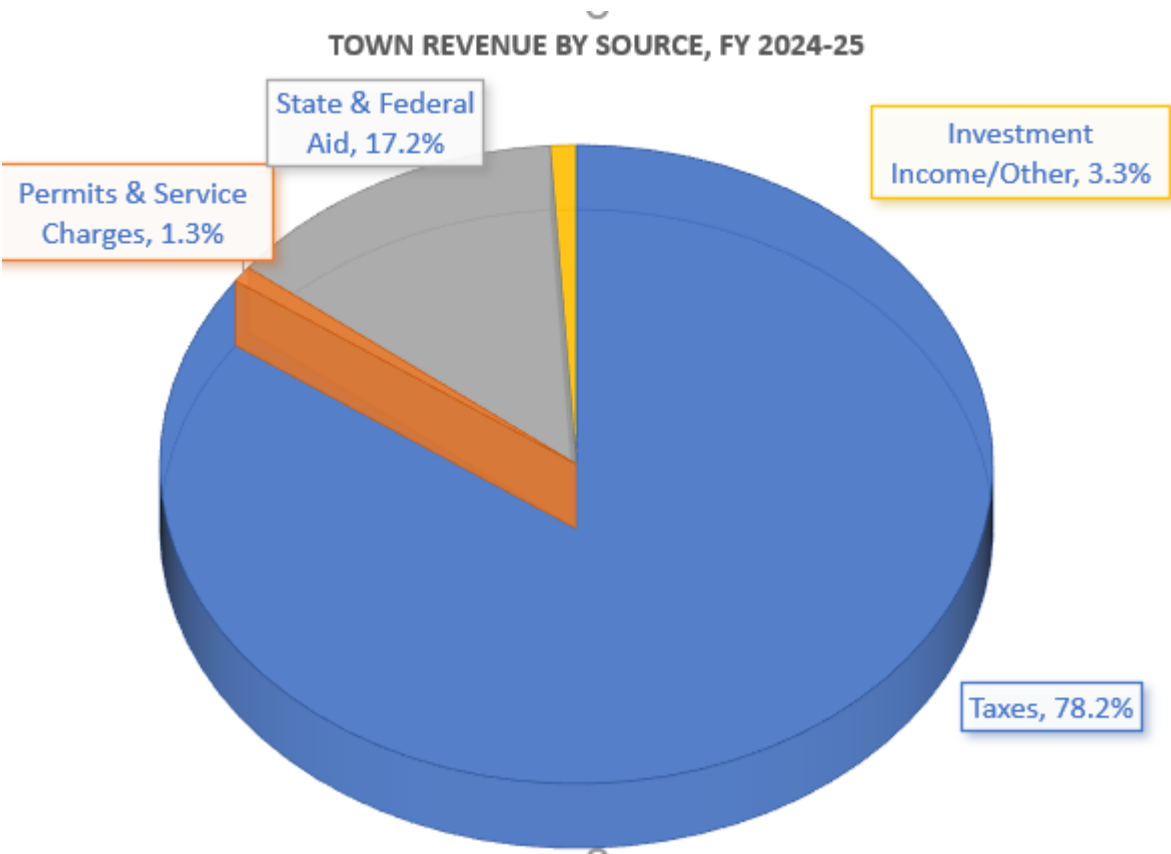


Financial Report 2024-2025

Town Finances FY 2024-2025

- The Town’s adopted General Fund budget for 2024-25 totaled \$143,363,916
- The Mill Rate was 39.67
- The Town achieved a collection rate of 98.9% on the current levy.
- The Town’s bond indebtedness at June 30, 2025 totaled \$31,550,000.
- The Town’s actual expenditures were \$140,548,639 and actual revenues totaled \$144,631,358..

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.

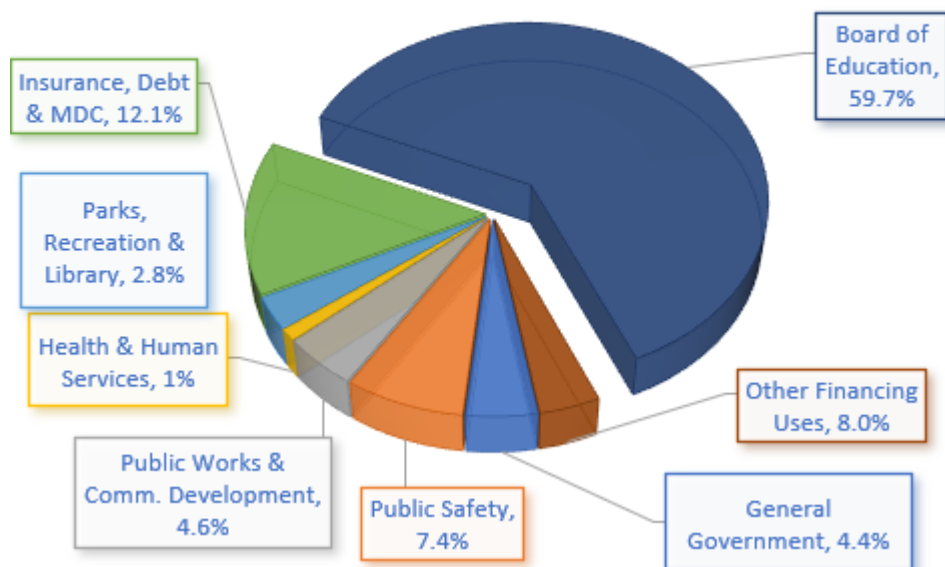


Town Finances FY 2024-2025

Actual Town Expenditures for FY 2023-24, by Function (\$ thousands)

Function	2023-24	2024-25		
General Government	6,486	6,168	4.4%	(318)
Public Safety	9,627	10,405	7.4%	778
Public Works & Comm. Development	6,005	6,478	4.6%	473
Health & Human Services	1,252	1,383	1.0%	131
Parks, Recreation & Library	3,769	3,976	2.8%	207
Insurance, Debt & MDC	20,101	16,988	12.1%	(3,113)
Board of Education	81,652	83,842	59.7%	2,190
Other Financing Uses	6,214	11,309	8.0%	5,095
	135,106	140,549	100.0%	5,443

TOWN EXPENDITURES FOR FY 2024-25, BY FUNCTION



Town Finances FY 2024-2025

Bonds Outstanding June 30, 2025
(in thousands)

Function	Amount
Schools	16,888
General Purpose	14,662
TOTAL	31,550

Schedule of Debt Principal and Interest by Year as of June 30, 2025
(in thousands)

Year Ending June 30	Principal	Interest	Total
2026	1,960	1,147	3,107
2027	2,020	1,052	3,072
2027	2,020	963	2,983
2028	2,020	874	2,894
2029	2,030	792	2,822
2030-2035	10,150	2,839	12,989
2035-2045	11,350	1,523	12,873
TOTAL	31,550	9,190	40,740