



John Salomone  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

## OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

### MEMORANDUM

To: Newington Town Council  
From: John Salomone, Town Manager  
Date: March 16, 2007  
Re: Monthly Report – February 2007

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#### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

During the month, the Town Manager focused on a number of matters including working with department heads, the Mayor and members of the Town Council on various issues as well as on a number of personnel matters. Other items of interest included:

- Continuing contract discussions with the IBPO union.
- Conducting a number of employee interviews.
- Meeting with representatives of Smart Power.
- With Finance Department staff, developing the proposed budget for FY 2007-08.
- Meeting with QScend representatives regarding a customer service software system.
- With Mayor Mortensen, presenting the State of the Town address sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.
- Speaking to members of the Kiwanis Club on February 26.
- Attending meetings of the CIP Committee.
- Attending the Public Hearing at the Capitol regarding volunteer firefighters.
- Meeting with representatives of the Newington Volunteer Ambulance Corps regarding revisions to the contract between the Town and the NVA.
- Meeting with representatives of the Newington Volunteer Fire Department regarding a grant application.
- Attending the Mid-State Collaborative Meeting in Rocky Hill on February 13.

Paid overtime for the month of February 2007 was as follows:

<b>HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>Overtime Hours</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Vehicles and Equipment	25.90	\$ 982.00
Weekend Stand-by and Call-in	16.00	665.76
Road Maintenance	46.20	2,070.05
Snow Removal	464.40	22,238.20
Total	552.50	\$ 25,956.01

<b>PARKS AND GROUNDS DIVISION</b>		
Snow Removal	183.75	\$ 6,615.00
Cemetery	7.00	252.00
Total	190.75	\$ 6,867.00
<b>POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>2006-07 Budget Overtime Appr.*</b>	<b>Overtime Expended Fiscal Year to Date</b>
Patrol	\$ 681,636.00	\$ 495,649.33
Investigation	73,048.00	60,927.87
Communication	91,132.00	74,811.94
Education/Training	54,837.00	42,457.15
Support Services	20,871.00	15,441.37
School Resources Officer Grant	3,349.00	1,620.77
Animal Control	11,000.00	4,083.28
Total	\$935,873.00	\$693,991.71

\*Includes mid-year transfers

### **PERSONNEL**

- Pamela Steele was appointed Assistant Town Clerk effective February 26. Ms. Steele has over three years of experience as an Assistant Town Clerk for other municipalities.
- A practical exam was administered to five candidates for the vacant Equipment Operator II position' a written exam will be administered on March 1.
- Matthew J. D'Esposito was offered a position as a Police Recruit and will begin his duties on March 12 and enter the academy on March 23.
- Seven police officer candidates have completed pre-offer polygraphs and are currently undergoing background investigations.
- A new Police recruitment program was begun on February 25.

### **Professional Development**

- Key Parks and Recreation personnel participated in two days of training with CEHP Inc. to learn how to implement the Master Plan recommendations. They also attended two training sessions with Decision Point LLC to develop leadership and team building skills.
- Assistant Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Ted Fravel, Recreation Supervisor Alison Alberghini and Parks and Grounds employees attended FEMA Emergency Management National Incident Management System (NIMS) Training.
- Five Parks and Grounds Division members attended the Connecticut Groundskeepers education series in Hartford.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The seventh month of the 2006-2007 Blue Cross/Blue Shield plan year produced a combined paid claim total that was lower than the estimates that were developed at renewal. The total claims were estimated at \$678,637 per month; the initial number for January 2007 came in at \$534,550.

### **INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY**

- Completed 223 work orders; blocked 76,150 SPAM/ unsolicited emails from reaching town employees, and blocked/ quarantined 716 viruses from entering the Town's network.
- The Town's web site had approximately 25,000 visits in February, with both general and departmental events calendars among the most frequently used sections.
- IST staff assisted in the preparation and production of the State of the Town presentation to the Newington Chamber of Commerce by Mayor Mortensen and me.
- Updated the Police Department's Record Management Systems (Priors) and Capitol Region Council of Government's law enforcement software application "Bluelink."

- The Library's Gatekeeper/Time Access installation was completed.
- GIS Coordinator Gregg Breton met with Recreation Supervisor Kristine Kravontka to discuss creating a GIS walking trails data layer to be used for providing cartographic maps depicting walking trails throughout Newington.
- Mr. Breton began the process of scanning "Hazardous Material Data Sheets" to link with the GIS Hazardous Material Data Layer created for the Fire Department
- Continued to work with the Police Department to update the Street Centerline GIS Data layer.
- Updated several parcels (Map & Deed Research) for the northern section of Piper Brook.
- IST staff and members of the Department conducted an online (Internet) review/ assessment of an electronic Building Permit System.

## FINANCE

### Accounting and Administration

- Several tasks associated with the 2007-08 budget were undertaken by Bill Hogan and Ann Harter during the month in order to meet the March 2, submission deadline to Council.
- Meetings were held with the Town's agent of record, Lockton Benefits in order to finalize the 2007-08 health benefits renewal.
- Meetings were also held regarding the IBPO arbitration.
- Work continued to be performed as part of requests by the Town's CIP Committee.
- The 2006-07 mid-year budget transfers as approved by the Town Council were recorded onto the Town's accounting system.
- No major grants were received during the month.

The Town received the following interest rates on investments. This list includes outstanding investments that are under the control of the Finance Department and includes the General Fund and other Town Funds.

#### INVESTMENTS, BY ACCOUNTING TYPE

(Unaudited) 2/28/07

General Fund	\$42,837,889
Special Revenue Funds	2,788,478
Capital Projects Funds	589,742
Internal Service Fund	3,739,723
Trust and Agency Funds	1,421,717
<b>TOTAL, ESTIMATED BY FUND</b>	<b>\$51,377,551</b>

#### INVESTMENTS, BY INSTITUTION TYPE

(Unaudited) 2/28/07

<i>Ave. Monthly Yield, Annualized</i>	<u>Interest %</u>		<u>Interest \$</u>		<u>\$ Invested</u>
	Current Month	Last Month	Current Month	Last Month	
STIF	5.36	5.36	98,211	41,000	22,719,220
Banknorth	5.39	5.43	43,071	44,454	10,963,236
CLASS PLUS	5.10	5.02	32,337	40,803	7,999,711
Financial Investors Trust	5.13	5.12	11,894	11,018	3,139,896
Sovereign Bank MM	5.17	5.17	25,402	26,366	6,555,486
<b>Total Outstanding Investments</b>					<b>51,377,551</b>

### Assessor

- Real estate transfers were read and entered in the Assessor data base for the period from October 1, 2006 to mid-January 2007.
- Seventy-one appointments for appeals against the 2006 Grand List were scheduled for the first week in March with the Board of Assessment Appeals. Notices of appointments were mailed to individual taxpayers and members of the Board.

- The application process for the elderly circuit breaker program began. Approximately 275 taxpayers were notified of the requirement to reapply this year.
- The conversion process for the Assessor valuation software known as IAS continued throughout the month.

### Revenue Collector

- New address changes are made daily to reroute returned mail as quickly as possible to taxpayers who have moved. This is an ongoing task with motor vehicles.
- Delinquent notices were mailed to 2,951 taxpayers for motor vehicles, 45 personal property, and 513 real estate accounts.
- The Town Constable was issued 27 alias tax warrants.
- The Motor Vehicle Department was supplied with the current list of paid and unpaid motor vehicle taxpayers.
- Collections on the current list totaled \$1,293,897

### PURCHASING

#### BID NO. 5, 2006-07, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF HVAC EQUIPMENT

Opening Date: March 15, 2007

### TOWN CLERK

- 536 documents were filed on the Newington Land Records during February.
- 53 property transfers were recorded with \$59,883.50 collected in State conveyance tax and \$23,658.01 collected in Town conveyance tax.
- Property at 175 Kelsey Street transferred for \$850,000 from Jo-Jon Enterprises, Inc. to Copart of Connecticut, Inc. Polidori Holdings of Connecticut, Inc. sold property to Copart of Connecticut, Inc. at 124 Christian Lane for \$2,924,000.
- There were two residential sales each over \$300,000.

#### Data Summary—February 2007

	<u>February 2007</u>	<u>February 2006</u>	<u>FY 2006-07 to Date</u>	<u>FY 2005-06 to Date</u>
Land Record Documents	536	424	4,910	5,242
Dog Licenses Sold	14	19	432	430
Game Licenses Sold	75	47	1,079	679
Vital Statistics				
Marriages	6	14	173	166
Civil Unions	1	2	1	6
Death Certificates	15	41	184	190
Birth Certificates	16	86	23	167
Total General Fund Revenue	\$ 41,533.01	\$ 24,770.05	\$506,870.02	\$433,703.98
Town Document Preservation	\$ 1,036.00	\$ 751.00	\$ 9,247.00	\$ 7,215.00
State Document Preservation	\$ 1,042.00	\$ 762.00	\$ 9,272.00	\$ 10,062.00
State Treasurer (\$26 fee)	\$ 13,442.00	\$ 9,620.00	\$119,912.00	\$ 56,784.00
Locip	\$ 1,551.00	\$ 1,110.00	\$ 41,551.00	\$ 6,552.00
State Game Licenses	\$ 1,721.00	\$ 1,036.00	\$ 20,644.50	\$ 19,588.50
State Dog Licenses	\$ 113.00	\$ 118.00	\$ 3,213.00	\$ 3,084.50
Dog Licenses Surcharge	\$ 38.00	\$ 42.00	\$ 1,167.00	\$ 1,114.00
Marriage & CU Surcharge	\$ 133.00	\$ 95.00	\$ 3,953.00	\$ 1,691.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 60,609.01</b>	<b>\$ 38,304.05</b>	<b>\$715,829.52</b>	<b>\$539,794.98</b>

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Reimbursement was received for the Red Light Enforcement Grant from the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation in the amount of \$16,054.36. This grant enabled the police department to purchase a Harley Davidson motorcycle and increase patrol on the Berlin Turnpike in 2006.
- Specific motor vehicle enforcement attention was given to four different streets and neighborhoods (Halleran Drive by John Patterson Middle School, Church Street by Halleran Drive, Audubon Avenue by Wilson Avenue and Cedar Street by Hartt Lane) in February. Approximately 16 traffic stops were made for speeding, stop sign, and other violations.
- The Community Services Officer (CSO) gave Cub Scout Pack 345 a tour of the Police Department facility. A demonstration/lesson on how fingerprinting is used as evidence in criminal investigation was given as part of the tour. The children were fingerprinted and their fingerprint cards taken home as souvenirs. Each child was also provided with a Newington Police Department Child ID Card.
- The purpose of the D.A.R.E. program was discussed with two Central Connecticut State University students who are working on a graphics design project. The students were also referred to the Newington Human Services Department for further information.
- Forty-seven offenses were the subject of investigation by Detective Division personnel in February.

### Patrol Calls - February, 2007

AlarmBurg	154	F/COno	6	MVAProp	108
AlarmHold	2	F/COsymp	3	MVAssist	83
Animal	17	F/Hazmat	1	MVComplaint	39
AssaultIP	2	F/Other	8	Neighbor	5
AssaultRep	2	F/Struc	6	Noise	5
Assist	37	F/Veh	2	Notification	4
BadCheckNSF	4	F/Water	1	OpenDoor/Win	6
Bomb	1	Fingerprint	23	ParkingViol	12
BreachIP	6	Follow Up	27	PropFound	4
BreachRep	2	Harassment	19	PropLost	8
BurgIP	2	Hazard	24	RecoveredMV	3
BurgRep	4	IllegalDumping	1	ServWarrant	49
CarSeat	3	IndecentExp	2	SexAssaultRe	1
Check	69	Intoxicated	14	SpecDetail	44
ClearLot	1	JuvComp	20	StolenMV	7
Court	20	Land/Tenant	2	SuddenDeath	5
CrimMisIP	1	LarcFromMV	20	SuicideAtt	2
CrimMisRep	8	LarcIP	8	Suspicious	76
CustomerIP	9	LarcRep	46	SuspMVOcc	14
CustomerRep	3	Liquor	1	Susp MV Unocc	7
Dog	33	Location	103	TestPolice	2
DomesticIP	22	LockoutMV	1	ThreatIP	1
DomesticRep	15	LockoutResid	2	TownOrd	4
Drug	5	Medical	189	Traffic Stop	430
DUI	3	Missing	2	TrespassIP	1
EDP	4	MV Aband	1	TrespassRep	2
Escort	29	MVA Evading	20		
F/Alarm	16	MVA Injury	8	<b>TOTAL FOR NPD</b>	<b>1,956</b>

## UCR/NIBRS Selected Crimes

January 2007

January 2006

Type of Crime	# of Offenses	Value of Crime	# of Offenses	Value of Crime
Murder	0	-0-	-0-	-0-
Forcible Rape	1	-0-	-0-	-0-
Robbery	1	\$25	1	\$150
Assault	12	-0-	6	-0-
Burglary	16	\$46,138	15	\$22,371
Larceny Theft	43	\$29,245	52	\$23,268
Auto Theft	1	\$10,000	5	\$36,600
<b>Totals</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>\$85,383</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>\$82,389</b>

- During the month of January 2007 70 adults were arrested: 1 for robbery, 17 for assaults, 1 for burglary, 2 for forgery, 10 for narcotic violations, 7 for DUI, and 32 for other miscellaneous offenses. Seven persons under the age of 18 were arrested for criminal acts.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Department report not available at time of compilation.

### FIRE MARSHAL

The Fire Marshal's Office completed the following activities during the month of February.

Inspections	25
Inspection Follow-Ups	38
Plan Review	6
Job Site Inspections	9
Underground Tank Removal	0
Fire Investigations	7
Fire Alarm Trouble	1
Complaints	0
Haz/Mat	2
Bomb Threats	1
Blasting	0

### PUBLIC WORKS/FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

- A special meeting of the Conservation Commission was also held on February 6, 2007 to act on an application that was time sensitive.
- Notification was received that one of the two appeals against the Conservation Commission had been retracted by the applicant. It is also anticipated that the second appeal will be retracted as well.
- A CLA-3 Form was submitted to the Department of Transportation (DOT) requesting reimbursement of \$33,864.05 for the inspection costs incurred by the Town for the Maple Hill Avenue and Church Street Pavement Rehabilitation Projects.
- Interim Town Engineer Tony Ferraro attended a Transportation Committee Meeting at CRCOG. On behalf of the member towns, CRCOG has requested DOT assume the maintenance and upkeep responsibilities for bus shelters. DOT is evaluating this request.

### Highway Department

- Four snow and ice related call-outs occurred during the month of February. The mild winter season continues as evidenced by a total of less than six inches of snow for the month.

- Projects completed during the month included: pothole patching, landfill organizational maintenance, tree branch trimming, litter clean-up, mailbox repairs, and the mixing of sand and salt to replenish supplies.
- Crews began installing under-drain on Stonehedge Drive. This is the first phase of the spring road reconstruction project.
- Mechanics continued with seasonal maintenance of street sweepers in preparation for the spring town-wide sweeping program. Also completed were two new vehicle setups for the Police Department, maintenance of snow fighting equipment, as well as scheduled maintenance and emergency repairs on all Town vehicles and equipment.

## **TOWN PLANNER**

690 Cedar Street – National Welding Property: On February 16<sup>th</sup> the Phase II Site Assessment for National Welding was completed and submitted to the Town. The extent of potentially hazardous substance releases justify further expenditure of the Town's EPA Brownfield grant to conduct subsurface investigation and the preparation of a remedial action plan. The next step is to prepare the Phase III work plan for submission to EPA for its approval. Once the Phase III investigations are underway the Town Council can begin discussions on how it wants to proceed with getting this site back into productive use.

Town Center STEAP Streetscape Grant: The Town Council authorized the execution of the State Department of Economic and Community Development's \$400,000 assistance agreement for the Streetscape Improvements, Phase III, as well as the signing of a professional services agreement with the Maguire Group to serve as streetscape project engineers.

Affordable Age-Restricted Housing Study Committee: The Town Planner has prepared a report for the Committee addressing its charges to identify the potential need for additional age-restricted housing and what properties might be utilized. Also analyzed were the age chart characteristics that project Newington's senior population will continue to expand and increase to 25% of the Town's total population by 2020. Based on the number of elderly households with incomes less than \$30,000 and the present supply of affordable age-restricted housing it is estimated that an additional 536 units might be needed.

### Development Projects Status

- 68-80 Maple Hill Subdivision: The Town Plan and Zoning Commission (TPZ) public hearing closed February 28<sup>th</sup>. The Commission has required the project engineer to provide additional storm water design information.
- Deming Street Age-Restricted Housing: The developer has proposed market rate single family units with floor plan layouts suitable for seniors. The project has been redesigned to address the Commission's and staff concerns relative to density. The developer has requested keeping the public hearing open until March 14<sup>th</sup> to permit more time for responding to the Commission's questions.
- 262 Brockett Street: A request is before the Commission to rezone 262 Brockett Street, across from the CITGO Station, from residential to commercial use to permit the construction of a 7,000 sq. ft. office building. The building at 262 Brockett is a blighted structure.
- Shoppes at East Cedar Street: Hunter Development, LLC withdrew its reapplication for a gas station/convenience store for this mixed use commercial project which also includes a hotel, bank, and restaurant. The TPZ's denial of the gas station is still under appeal in Superior Court.

## **BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

- Four permits were issued for single family residences in Newington in February (19 Chaplin Street, 17 Chaplin Street, 15 Chaplin Street, and 11 Chaplin Street).
- Two permits were issued to demolish two houses located at 2553 Berlin Turnpike and 2557 Berlin Turnpike. The property will be used for a new motel.
- A permit was issued for renovations of Roy Rogers to convert it to an Arby's Restaurant.
- The steel beams are up for the new building owned by Volvo-Aerocraft at 183 Louis Street.
- Work is continuing at Stew Leonard's, 3475 Berlin Turnpike.

- Four Certificates of Occupancy were issued in February, three for single family houses (35 Waverly Drive, 30 Dacosta Drive and 155 Sterling Drive) and one for a commercial building(Ann & Hope, 2631 Berlin Turnpike).

Building Department Inspectors completed a total of 407 inspections: Alarm (16), Boiler (1), Chimney (1), CO (21), Code (13), Drains (3), Electrical (83), Final (7), Fireplace Insert (1), Footings (10), Foundation (17), Framing (46), Gypsum (12), Hot Water Heaters (1), Insulation (15), Mechanical (45), Plumbing (46), Roofing (1), Rough (35), Sheathing (2), Sill (1), Site (2), Sprinkler (24), Tank (2), Wood / Pellet Stove (2).

Seminars attended by the Building Inspectors for their continuing education credit were:

David Zwick	Permit Tracking Program, February 5, 2007
Adrienne Cerniglia	Permit Tracking Program, February 5, 2007
Richard Smith	Permit Tracking Program, February 5, 2007
Pete Hobbs	Permit Tracking Program, February 5, 2007

### **Building/Renovation Permit Statistics**

<u>Type of Permit</u>	<u>No. of Permits</u>	<u>Value of Permits</u>
Addition/Alterations	13	\$ 841,496
Deck	0	0
Demolition	2	28,000
Electrical	36	175,383
Fence	0	0
Fire Suppression/Sprinkler	0	0
Footing/Foundation	0	0
Fuel Tank	1	0
Garage/Shed	0	0
Mechanical	21	113,459
New Commercial	0	0
New Residential	4	1,048,372
Plumbing	16	86,315
Pool	0	0
Roofing/Siding	4	33,000
Sign	0	0
Tent	0	0
Trailer	0	0
Total	97	\$2,326,025

### **Permit Value Comparison for February:**

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Value of Permits Issued	\$2,326,025	\$3,107,530
Building Permit Fees Received	\$26,978	\$49,140
Other Income Fees	276	1,653
Building Permits Issued	97	127

### **Total Value of Permits and Permit Fees:**

<u>2006-2007</u>		<u>2005-2006</u>	
<u>Value</u>	<u>Permit Fee</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Permit Fee</u>
\$44,844,642	\$508,371	\$20,259,154	\$319,428

### **HEALTH (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT HEALTH DISTRICT)**

- Attended an environmental health staff meeting.

- Met with representatives of Stew Leonard’s and State of Connecticut Consumer Protection to perform a walk through inspection of the Stew Leonard’s store and to review plans for future work to be completed.
- Performed a walk through inspection of the Anne Howard @ Indian Hill kitchen with Chief of Environmental Health Services Nancy Brault to inspect completed work and discuss future plans.
- Attended a meeting / presentation of new software that the Building/Engineering/Health Departments are considering. The software would help in the tracking of permits and applications to ensure proper sign offs and approvals are obtained.
- Attended a CCHD staff meeting in Wethersfield.
- Attended a Defensive Driving Course sponsored by the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency
- Completed food service plan reviews for Anne Howard @ Indian Hill and a Family Dollar Store.
- Assisted district staff in the investigation of a food-borne outbreak.
- Attended an Emergency & Risk Communication training class held at the Wethersfield Police Department.

### Statistical Summary

Complaints	1
Food Service Inspections	36

### HUMAN SERVICES

- Human Services Director Ken Freidenberg is coordinating a two-town grant to be submitted to the Greater Hartford Jaycees Foundation. Human Services and Parks and Recreation Departments in both towns are proposing to enhance social skill development for after-school and summer programming. The Jaycees Foundation invited ten out of eighty-five applicants to apply for a \$50,000 grant after receiving a letter of intent in December.
- The department also received notice of a State funded Youth Leadership Grant. Mr. Freidenberg is collaborating with school, Police and Human Services representatives from Newington, Wethersfield and Rocky Hill to begin addressing violence and vandalism prevention through youth leadership.
- The Violence and Vandalism Committee held its first meeting with representatives from school, Police, Human Services and the Health District to begin assessing the scope of the problem.
- Human Services staff provided some assistance to the schools and Police during the recent critical incidents.
- The Youth-Adult Council will sponsor the annual Super Hoop-La basketball game on Friday evening, March 9. The proceeds from this event will be used for scholarships to graduating high school students.
- The Early Childhood Council will sponsor the annual “Getting Ready for Kindergarten” program on Tuesday, March 27. A panel will include a kindergarten teacher, school psychologist, Transportation Supervisor, Children’s Librarian and Director of Human Services.
- The Social Casework Program handled 67 active cases with 20 new referrals. Casework issues included financial and energy assistance, emergency shelter, health and mental health, housing, elder abuse or neglect, substance abuse and unemployment.
- The Food Bank, Clothing Closet and Special Need requests remained constant.
- The department is preparing for the annual Volunteer Recognition program which will occur in April.
- Youth and Family Counseling had an active caseload of 34 with 7 inactive and 4 closed cases. There were 7 new referrals, 58 clinical therapy sessions and 80 contacts with families and other agencies. Presenting issues included family dysfunction, substance abuse and impact of separation, divorce or death.
- Positive youth development included:
  - The February vacation dance in collaboration with Parks and Recreation attracted over 250 middle-school age youth.
  - Winter/Spring SCORE after-school programs at Cold Stone Creamery, Avery Soda Factory and vacation activities such as skiing and bowling, lunch and movie.
  - ROPE was facilitated at John Wallace by Youth Worker Rik Huggard and at Martin Kellogg by Coordinator Karen Futoma.

- Mr. Huggard is developing an alternative program for Martin Kellogg 7<sup>th</sup> grade students unable to attend the May Williamsburg trip.
- CCSU student Ben Chaback and high school student Cody Dunn are assisting with a variety of tasks related to equipment, inventory and the Challenge Course.
- Boy Scout Greg Pietrycha is assisting the department by working toward his Eagle Scout badge to rebuild the challenge course shelter which was destroyed by storms.
- Planning for the Summer Youth Adventure program is underway.

**February 2007 Statistics**

Selected Programs	FY 06-07 Undp. Total This Month	FY 06-07 Undp. Total Last Month	FY 06-07 Cum. Undp. Total YTD	FY 05-06 Cum. Undp. Total YTD
Youth and Family Counseling	34	41	131	122
Positive Youth Development	392	124	2,665	1,923
Youth Works (Job Bank)	5	4	38	29
Information and Referral	255	236	1,791	1,527
Social Casework Cases Under 55 = 41 Over 55 = 26	67	72	238	213
Food Bank Participants	78	94	621	669
Special Needs	13	27	155	94

**SENIOR AND DISABLED CENTER**

- On February 7, the Center had to be closed due to a break in the water main in the parking lot, but was open by late evening. The Commission on Aging and Disabled meeting scheduled for that evening was relocated to the Lucy Robbins Welles Library.
- Special health events this month included "The Heart Truth": a PowerPoint presentation for National Wear Red for Women's Heart Health Day and a brunch and learn program created by the Senior Network called "How I Do Diabetes." Both programs were presented by Center Nurse Practitioner Stacie Zibel.
- The Center held its inaugural new member social on February 12<sup>th</sup>. This event will be held on a regular basis to help engage and retain new members.
- HealthNet sponsored a special program on February 16<sup>th</sup> called "Proud to be an American." Entertainer Bob Mel sang, refreshments were provided, and, the highlight of the program, Major Luke Boutot from the CT National Guard talked about his experiences in Iraq.
- Requests for information and referral and social work services remain high, especially related to Medicare Part D and ConnPACE. These services are provided primarily by social worker Teri Snyder (with a current caseload of 557 clients) and Program Coordinator Eleanor Eichner with support from other staff.
- The Center hosted the quarterly meeting of the statewide Homeshare program on February 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Senior and Disabled Center staff met with representatives of the Central Connecticut Health District and staff from senior services in Wethersfield, Rocky Hill and Berlin to discuss the potential of a joint application for funding for dental screening services for older adults.
- Center Director Dianne Stone made a presentation to the Connecticut Association of Area Agencies on Aging (CAAA) on behalf of the Connecticut Association of Senior Center Personnel (CASCP) on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Dial-A-Ride**

**Wellness Clinic**

**Senior Café**

Trips	Miles	On-site	Off-site	Meals Served
994	3,048	97	13	n/a

## Project Homeshare

	Current Matches	Providers	Seekers	Counseling Calls
Newington	6	13	6	2
Other Comm.	10	49	69	29

### PARKS AND RECREATION

#### Administration

- Newington Greenways Alliance held its 2007 kick-off meeting and is making plans for Trails Day in June. A grant-writing subcommittee also met.
- The Master Plan consultant, CEHP Inc., presented some of their recommendations to the Board of Parks and Recreation and the Town Council.
- Superintendent Rubin served on the Chamber's Awards Committee, and participated in a Customer Council for S&S Worldwide. She also interviewed vendors for Fireworks, uniform companies, and met with Target Safety to implement OSHA compliant safety training for town staff.
- Superintendent Rubin assisted Human Services with a Jaycees grant for after school & summer programs, met with the town's AED committee, and Cable TV News show committee.
- Ms. Rubin attended the State of the Town address, hosted a meeting of the Newington Sports Council and addressed behavior issues with parents of youth sports.

#### Recreation Division

- Recreation Supervisors Kristine Kravontka and Alison Alberghini attended the CRPA Winter Quarterly meeting entitled "*Changing of the Guard: Transitioning from a Boomer Workplace to an Intergenerational Friendly Environment.*"
- Ms. Kravontka attended a joint meeting of the Library and Parks and Recreation to discuss a combined Touch-A-Truck/Summer Reading Program kickoff.
- Almost 400 youth basketball players participated in Photo Day at the Mortensen Community Center. Over \$800 was donated by *TeamSmiles.com* to Parks and Recreation.
- The indoor pool staff helped members of Boy Scout Troop 347 gain their swimming merit badges.
- Almost 600 youths and their families participated in February vacation programming. Programs included *Grandparents & Me Bingo*, in collaboration with the Senior and Disabled Center, and the *February Freeze Dance*, held in conjunction with Human Services.
- Registration for spring programs began. 13,000 program brochures were sent to the public.
- The Youth Basketball Program participated in Parks and Recreation Night at the high school during the Boys and Girls Basketball games, complete with giveaways and a halftime show.

#### Parks & Grounds Division

- Parks and Grounds staff responded to six incidents of plowable snow and numerous morning sanding runs.
- As weather permitted, staff members continued pruning in West Meadow Cemetery and various crabapple trees throughout town.
- Bleacher safety repairs were completed on one of the elevated bleachers at the Clem Lemire Complex.
- A cleanup was undertaken of the yard area at the Parks Garage, with numerous broken and unusable parts and pieces removed to permit easier truck access.
- There were six interments in Town cemeteries during the month of February.

### LIBRARY

- Newington school vacation week saw the completion of *Set Goals for Reading*, a new winter reading program for students. Over 300 students completed the recommended reading goals, and enjoyed special programs with a hockey theme.

- Floor hockey and a skating party, movies and stories, and other activities completed a very busy week.
- 1,822 children and their caregivers attended 55 programs.
- Teens enjoyed library vacation activities such as chocolate making and an afternoon of games.
- A teaching team of six reference librarians is preparing to present a series of library related classes at the Senior and Disabled Center in the spring. The on-line catalog, consumer information, health resources, readers' advisory, travel resources, and the library web page will be the topics in these one-hour classes with a team teaching approach.
- The *One Book 4 Towns* project for 2007 will kick off on Tuesday, March 27, at the Rocky Hill Library. The book, The Surrogate Thief by Archer Mayor, is the chosen title to be read and discussed by the communities of the four towns. The author will be our guest that evening, and representatives of the four Police Departments will be reading passages from the book. A bus will be available to transport Newington residents to Rocky Hill for this fun-filled evening.
- Topics of note that were researched this month included:
  - TV rating codes.
  - Read-aloud book on the holocaust for a 5<sup>th</sup> grade class.
  - Information on moving to North Carolina.
  - Companies in Connecticut that sell humidifiers that attach to furnaces.
  - Connection between cell phones and brain tumors.
- Use of online databases was high during February. The Testing and Education Resource Center is being used more than ever. Researching college information, taking career assessments, taking practice tests, and searching for scholarship resources and graduation information is what this useful tool is best known and used for.
- 5,590 reference questions were answered and 939 items were processed and added to the collection. 35,361 items were circulated. There was a 2% increase of people using the library, at 20,068. Volunteers logged in 93 hours.
- Due in large part to the success of the recently installed PC reservation software, more patrons are gaining access to the Internet stations than ever before. This system limits the amount of time a person can use the Internet, thereby allowing for greater accessibility for all. In total, 2,309 people were able to take advantage of Internet services during February, an 8% increase over last year.
- Library Board activity centered around interviews for a vacant library corporation position on the board.
- The annual 5K road race will be held on May 20, and a roster of local individual and business sponsorship is full.
- The Friends escalated preparations for their annual weekend book sale which will take place on May 4 - 6.
- Library staff resumed taping their segment of the Newington Daily News after approval by NCTV management. Staffing issues at the NCTV site forced the show to be halted for a period of time. Other Town departments will soon resume taping as well.
- Lois Wankerl, a 21 year part-time staff member, retired at the end of the month. Diane Becker, another part-time staff member, resigned as well.