



Keith Chapman
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

PRESS RELEASE

June 12, 2020

As the result of the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic, below is a summary of current programs and activities for our community and leisure services. The Town Hall remains closed to the public, but is continuing essential services by appointment. We have cancelled any non-essential meetings, and holding necessary meetings virtually.

Department: Parks and Recreation

Residents are encouraged to use WebTrac to register for programs, however they can come to the door at the Mortensen Community Center and call the office at 860-665-8666 in order to register for programs or make field/facility reservations in-person. An office staff member will meet them at the door. Below is a list of programs and services that we are providing to town residents. Per CDC, state, and local guidelines, we recommend that Individuals over the age of 65 or with other health conditions refrain from participating in these activities and/or gatherings and continue to stay home and stay safe.

- Churchill Park Pavilion Rentals
- Waterfall rentals for wedding pictures
- Summer Concerts on Thursday nights
- ADA Celebration 30th Anniversary
- Thursday, Friday, and Saturday entertainment and table cleaning at Municipal parking lot.
- Virtual Camp
- Cornhole League for adults 21 and over
- Field rentals for youth groups
- Cemetery plot sales
- Street and Park Tree Inventory Program
- Planning daycare for elementary schools in conjunction with BOE, pending details and school year schedule
- Kindness Counts Program
- Veterans Memorial Trailer, parade, and Town wide visits
- Sports camps including: Boys' Tennis camp (Middle School and High School ages), Girls' Tennis camp (Middle School and High School ages), Field Hockey Co-Ed Skills Camp (entering grades 3 to 9), Girls' Basketball Skills Clinic (Kindergarten through grade 4 and grade 5 through 8), Boys' Basketball Skills Clinic (Kindergarten through grade 4 and grade 5 through 8), Newington Soccer camp (ages 5 to 18), Soccer Goalkeeper Academy (ages 9 to 16), Girls Volleyball Fundamentals (Girls entering grades 7 to 9), Girls High School Volleyball (Girls entering grades 10 to 12), Junior Coed Golf Camp (ages 8 to 14), Free Junior Coed Golf Clinics (ages 8 to 14), Beginner Ladies' Golf Clinic, Beginner Adult Coed Golf Clinic, Boys' Baseball Camp (ages 14 to 17), Outdoor Basketball League (grades 3 to 8), Tennis at Mill Pond Park (Youth through Seniors), Phys. Ed. Camp (entering grades 1 to 7), Skyhawks' Volleyball Camp (ages 10 to 14), Skyhawks' Basketball Camp (ages 5 to 8), Skyhawks' Flag Football (ages 6 to 10), Skyhawks' Mini Hawk—Baseball, Basketball, Soccer (ages 4 to 7), and Skyhawks' Multi-Sport--Capture the Flag, Ultimate Frisbee, & Kickball (ages 7 to 12).
- Virtual Adult Fitness classes including: Core Strength Training, Tighten and Tone, Total Barre, T'ai Chi for Older Adults, Fun-n-Fitness, Tone Aerobics, Gentle Yoga, Mixed Levels Yoga, and Walk with Ease.

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- Virtual music classes including: Online Band Lessons with Mr. Kelly, Music Together, and Rhythm Kids 1.
- Adult Fitness classes we plan to do in person with the start of Phase 2 include: The Art of T'ai Chi, Zumba Gold, Zumba, Low Impact Zumba, Yoga for Well Being, American Sign Language for Kids, American Sign Language for Adults, Ballroom Dancing, Line Dancing, Summer Fun Runs, and Gymnastics.
- Coordination of field rentals for the Adult WAKA program (Soccer, Flag Football, Kickball).
- Coordination of field rental for Adult Baseball and Men and Women's Softball.

Department: Senior and Disabled Center

People aged 65 and older or at a higher risk are recommended to Stay Home and Stay Safe through Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the State Reopening Plan. The Center remains closed to the public with programs, services and activities available to support staying at home as follows:

Food Services:

- Meals on Wheels delivered Monday through Friday to residents aged 60+. Registration required and available by telephone. (860) 665-8778
- Grab and Go Lunches available to residents aged 60+ with weekly pick up or drop off of 5 complete lunches. Registration required and available by telephone. (860) 665-8778
- Volunteer Grocery Shopping available Monday through Friday to Newington residents who are 60+ or at high risk. Registration required and available by telephone. (860) 665-8778

Outreach and Social Services:

- Social worker is available by telephone and email for information and referral, benefits assistance and casework.
- Applications for Renters Rebate are being processed by mail and telephone.
- Weekly robocall to Senior and Disabled Center resident members each Friday.
- Weekly email to members with program updates.
- Monthly "Connection" newsletter available online and by mail with information about Senior & Disabled Center programs and services, COVID-19 and other health-related information and resources, and activities Durable Medical Equipment loan closet available on a limited basis.
- Frequent posts on the Center's Facebook page with information and activities and occasional Facebook Live updates.

Transportation:

- Dial-A-Ride is providing limited transportation for critical medical appointments that are non-urgent (e.g. not sick visits).
- The Out of Town Medical transportation program (Curtain) has continued.

Programs and Activities (call to sign up):

- Telephone bingo is available to members each Tuesday and Thursday at 1:00 p.m.
- Aging Mastery Program® will be offered Tuesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. from June 30 to August 31 via Zoom
- Pen Pal program with the Wood County, OH Committee on Aging
- Scheduled virtual programs for June include (call for Zoom info):
 - American History Lecture Series – Friday June 12th & Friday June 19th at 1:00 p.m. Professor Jared Day will present the next installments of this popular series. The topic for June is "Woodrow Wilson: Twentieth Century Idealist and Visionary"
 - Lyft & Learn Session – Thursday, June 19th at 2:00 p.m. Join Center Director Dianne Stone to discuss how to use rideshare services such as Lyft and how ridesharing can benefit you or a loved one now or in the future.
 - Veterans' Coffee Hour – Friday, June 19th at 1:00 p.m. All who have served are welcome to join in the comradery of a Zoom virtual coffee hour.
 - Coffee Hour with Town Manager Keith Chapman – Thursday, June 25th at 3:00 p.m. Join the Town Manager in this informal Zoom virtual coffee hour to discuss what's going on around Town.
 - Crafts with Karen – Mandala Cards – Friday, June 26th at 1:00 p.m. Grab a snack and join us via zoom for an afternoon of crafting and conversation! Follow along as the Center's own Karen Halpert shows you how to make these stunning creations! No artistic experience required.
 - Making the Most of Your Tele-Medicine Visit - Thursday, July 2nd, 10:00 a.m. Telehealth and virtual doctor appointments have become a vital part of our health care regimen. Learn how to prepare and what you can expect during the appointment. Presented by Hartford Healthcare.

Department: Lucy Robbins Welles Library:

Library hours to assist patrons by phone and email: HOURS ARE: Monday - Thursday- 10:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m. & Friday - 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Phone numbers: General 860-665-8700 Children: 860-665-8720 Administration: 860-665-8730

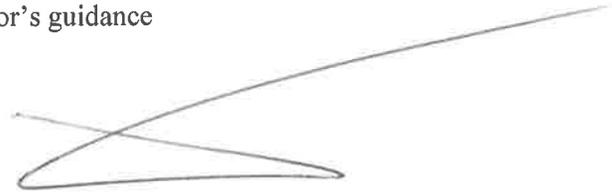
- Borrowing of library materials – all physical materials in the library can be borrowed.
- The Lucy-to-Go Curbside Service resumed on June 1st – Patrons can place holds on library materials or call the library to request materials. When materials are available patrons are notified and they then call the library and make arrangements for next day contactless curbside pick-up.
- Curbside pick-up hours are: Monday – Friday 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. and Friday 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Information assistance for patrons of all ages by phone or email during the hours the library is open.
- Help patrons find a good book by phone, email or from the library's website.
- Patrons can get a new library card even though the building is closed. The library card application is available from the library's website or the application can be mailed to them. Patrons can mail it back with a picture of their license or a valid form of ID or email this information as well. A new library card will be sent to their home address.
- Patrons can also apply for a temporary library card online to be able to access digital materials only until they are able to get a permanent card.
- Patrons have 24/7 access to the library's online catalog, the website and the library's vast digital collection.
- The two book drops are open 24/7. The book drops are emptied 5 days a week. Returned materials are quarantined for 3 days before staff touches the items to check them back in. There are no fines accrued during this quarantine time.
- The library is offering virtual programming this summer. No in-person programming is planned during the summer. Video recordings available from the library's website, Facebook Live and Zoom are the formats being used to offer the programs. Programs are available for kids, teens and adults. Some of the programs are collaborative with other town departments.
- There will be summer programs for kids, teens and adults. The programs will be online although we will help patrons participate if they cannot do it online.
- Staff has been working with schools to provide the physical and digital materials the students will need for summer learning.

Department: Human Services

Please call 860-665-8590 or 860-665-8660 to Inquire about any services or programs.

- Financial Casework services will be conducted via phone interviews. We will interview you via phone to determine your situation, identify need and possible resource referrals and develop a plan for possible assistance. We will ask that you send required documentation to us via email, mail, or text when possible. We will work together with you to determine the best method for receiving documentation and any necessary signatures.
 - Fuel, utility, and MDC assistance
 - Assistance applying for unemployment Compensation
 - Assistance applying for & tracking stimulus payments
 - Housing Needs- shelters, rental assistance
 - Assistance in applying for Social Security: disability, widow's benefits, retirement benefits, SSI
 - Medical coverage counseling: CHOICES, Medicare, HUSKY, AHCT, private insurance, Patient Assistance Funds-Hospital
 - SNAP applications, T19, MSP, HUSKY applications
- Safe Homes Referrals
 - Assist in securing resources & developing resolution plan for houses with unsafe conditions such as blight, hoarding, etc.
- Food Bank
 - New households can apply for assistance with food through the food bank via phone
 - Grab & Go- no contact pick-up of pre-packed food & household necessities
 - Delivery of pre-packed food & household necessities
- Clinical counseling needs (youth, families & adults) will be assessed via phone intake.

- Referrals will be made to treatment providers or ongoing sessions will be scheduled and conducted via phone or virtual platform. We will, however, strive to be flexible in format of service delivery to best meet the needs of each individual client. These are stressful times- please take care of yourself and do not hesitate to contact us.
- Positive youth development programs -Call 860-665-8594 for registration info.
 - Zoom meetings with LEAD Group- youth mentorship, leadership development
 - Outdoor Summer Youth Adventure program- open to youth entering 7th, 8th, & 9th grade
- Human Services Virtual Presentations in collaboration with the Library, Senior & Disabled Center aired on NCTV.
 - Youth Response to current times: identifying stress & anxiety & learning coping skills
 - Mindfulness for Adults
 - Mindfulness for Teens
 - Youth Connections with Rik
 - Prevention Partnership facilitated by Gary Turco: Prevention of Youth Substance Use in Newington Youth
 - SACS Series: Internet Safety, Safe Dating
 - Human Services: Update of Resources & Services
 - CCHD- Update on Covid, Preparation for upcoming Flu season
- ADA Coordinator
- Contact for Covid 19 – questions re compliance with Governor’s guidance



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