

3 PRIMROSE STREET  
NEWTOWN, CT 06470  
TEL. (203) 270-4221

BOARD OF FINANCE  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
Council Chambers  
3 Primrose Street  
Newtown, CT 06470  
Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

*These minutes are subject to approval by the Board of Finance*

**Present:** Sandy Roussas, Keith Alexander, Ned Simpson, Chris Gardner, John Madzula and Matthew Mihalcik

**Absent:** None

**Also Present:** First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Finance Director, Bob Tait, Superintendent Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue, BOE Chair Michelle Ku, BOE Member Deb Zukowski, Matt Ariniello, Director of Newtown Community Center, Kinga Walsh, Chair of Newtown Community Center Committee, Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director Newtown Parks and Rec, Ed Marks, Commissioner of Newtown Parks and Rec, one member of the press and six members of the public

Chair Sandy Roussas called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Attendees saluted the American Flag.

**Voter Comments**

Clinton DePaulo, 39 Buttonball Drive, is a Commissioner for Parks and Rec. He urged the Board to take a close look at long term value versus short term savings in hopes to save the Town money in the longrun. Mr. DePaulo also asked the BOF to listen closely to Mr. Marks and Mr. Samuelson's presentation.

Mary Maday, 107 Haley Lane, came to the meeting representing many seniors in Town. Ms. Maday is concerned about the decreased budget of the senior center. She noted the need for more staff and would like the center to be open until 6p or 7p. Ms. Maday also commented the yoga classes at the Senior Center are rather crowded and urged the Board to take a close look at the funding for the Senior Center. (Ms. Maday handed out the Senior Center newsletter – see attached).

John Boccuzzi, 57 Queen St, congratulated the Town for the tremendous strides forward; however, he is concerned about the significant increase in the number of seniors. He commented that if we are building a Program for present-day population, the Town needs to include more staffing and funding for next year. Mr. Boccuzzi reminded everyone that this is a growing community.

**Communications**

Chair Roussas shared several documents with the BOF regarding the BOS and BOE FY 2020-21 Budget. (See first four attachments)

**Minutes**

Chris Gardner moved to approve the minutes of February 20, 2020. Ned Simpson seconded. All in favor and motion passes.

**First Selectman's Report**

First Selectman Rosenthal had no report.

**Finance Director's Report**

Finance Director, Bob Tait, commented that he is meeting with the Rating Agency next Wednesday. This will involve three fiscal years (the year prior, the current year and the next fiscal year).

## **Unfinished Business**

### **Debt Policy**

Tabled

### **Newtown BOS FY 2020-21 Budget**

*Parks and Rec* – Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director and Ed Marks, Chairman of the Parks and Rec Commission

Mr. Marks shared the Newtown Parks and Rec Capital Budgets 2006-7 through 2020-21 Budget Years document (see attached). He noted the long-term challenges they have faced despite looking forward at a long-term plan. Parks and Rec has primarily focused on contractual services and capital spending along with the regular expenditures of employees and benefits. The significant decrease in budget presents challenges when trying to have a long-term plan. Parks and Rec had requested capital expenditures around \$152,000 rather than the \$78,375 shown on the document.

Mr. Gardner asked about the kind of challenges Parks and Rec has faced. Mr. Marks responded by saying they have looked very close at the contractual services plan and attempted to generate net savings by removing 17 acres from a renewing five-year lawn maintenance contract, purchasing a new mower, and using Parks and Rec staff to mow the additional 17 acres. However, the new mower didn't make it through BOS. Mr. Marks said the F-550 trucks are expected to last 15 years whereas the F-350 trucks only last about 10 years. He does recognize we are under tough fiscal constraints; however, in other cases, Mr. Marks feel like they do know what the priorities should be and what needs to be done to be an effective team.

Mr. Mihalcik asked if the monies shown in the document presented includes the CIP. In addition, Mr. Mihalcik asked if money had been shifted out of this into the CIP. Mr. Marks responded by saying he doesn't think there has been a shift to pay capital items from the CIP. Mr. Mihalcik asked what the minimum is for CIP. Mr. Marks said about \$300,000.

Mr. Simpson noted the budget has flat revenue of \$225,000. When was the last time the fees were looked at externally for residents and internally for BOE. Mr. Marks said the Department reviews the fees annually and there is an increase with some fees each year (and not all at once). Mr. Simpson asked if any fees or grants come through as negative expenses. Mr. Marks says he has a better handle on expenses rather than fees. He also noted that anything that is generated from the programs goes into different revenue buckets or the Town's General Fund. Mr. Tait said he hasn't seen enough movement in the fees (in quite a few years) where he was willing to increase the estimated revenue amount.

Chair Roussas asked about the collaboration between Parks and Rec and the Community Center. Mr. Marks commented that Matt Ariniello and Amy Mangold have been working together and complementing one another.

Mr. Mihalcik asked how the bidding process is done regarding the vehicles. Mr. Carlson responded by saying 80% of the time the Department is buying vehicles off state contract.

Mr. Alexander inquired about the lawn mower. Mr. Samuelson said it's a state contract. Mr. Samuelson said the mower was \$25k/year (the savings from contractor fees would be 17 acres). The bid was \$22k/year less with the contractor not mowing those 17 acres. Over the long-term, the Department thought the savings would be beneficial for the Town. First Selectman Rosenthal commented that it was presented to the BOS differently. Mr. Samuelson added that the additional mower would have helped the Department to take on the extra acreage. Chair Roussas clarified that the mower in question was recently paid off for \$110,000 and that Mr. Samuelson proposed a lease-to-own mower in the amount of \$116,000 or \$25,000/year in conjunction with trading in value of said mower.

Chair Roussas asked about the truck the Department received. Mr. Samuelson said the main difference between the two models is capacity. Chair Roussas asked if there is an impact on day-to-day operations. The answer as a whole was no there is not a major impact on day-to-day operations; however, Mr. Samuelson noted he was looking at longevity of 10-year lifespan of the vehicle versus the 15-year lifespan.

Chris Gardner asked how many F-550s the department has. Mr. Samuelson said they have 8 including the one they are looking to replace and there is one F-350. Mr. Marks mentioned that of the 8 they currently have 3 considered to be in poor condition.

Chair Roussas asked why is the Department looking to replace the one with the lowest mileage. Mr. Samuelson said it's the one in the worst condition. Mr. Marks asked Mr. Samuelson if anything is salvageable. Mr. Samuelson said not on this particular truck.

Chair Roussas asked about the mower in question and if we can run this into the ground rather than lease a new one. Mr. Samuelson said we could, but the initial hope was to have a back up given the Department mows 28-30 weeks out of the year.

*Newtown Community Center-* Matt Ariniello, Director, Kinga Walsh, Chair of Newtown Community Center Committee

Mr. Ariniello noted they created the budget just shortly after 4-5 months of operations and it is evolving (see presentation attached). Ms. Walsh commended Mr. Ariniello and all parties involved in creating such a special place for the Newtown. The idea was to bring the community together and this has already been accomplished in large part due to the Center's mission, those that have joined and the fantastic staff on hand.

Chair Roussas noted that assuming the Community Center sustains itself, the Center's operations will not go into the Town budget. Mr. Tait responded by saying the Town budget is General Fund by Charter and unless that legal document is changed, the Community Center will not be a part of the Town budget.

Chris Gardner confirmed there has been no cost to the taxpayers. First Selectman Rosenthal said there has not been any cost from the Community Center to the taxpayer, but keep in mind the Senior Center Building.

Mr. Simpson asked to confirm that Community Center staff provide coverage of the Senior Center after 4:00p and weekends. Mr. Ariniello said many Town meetings and organization that were held at the former Senior Center are now being held at the new building. Mr. Simpson noted that every hour the Community Center is open, there is a paid person at the front desk, which is not the case at the Senior Center.

Chair Roussas asked about the annual payments from the General Electric Grant. Mr. Ariniello responded by saying the Center received a payment in January and Mr. Tait puts it in the Special Revenue Account.

The First Selectman commended Mr. Ariniello and Ms. Walsh for their exceptional dedication to the Center.

*BOS FY 2020-21 Budget (with BOE line item)*

She thanked First Selectman Rosenthal, Mr. Tait, the BOS, Dr. Rodrigue, Mr. Bienkowski, the BOE and the BOF and all of the effort that has come before tonight. Chair Roussas mentioned the increases that were seen are largely contractual, so she is not sure that there is much in the way of decreases that can happen; however, the BOF are stewards of the taxpayers. Chair Roussas asked the Board for feedback on the budget.

Mr. Alexander agreed with Chair Roussas in thanking the many efforts. Mr. Alexander agrees with the budget presented.

Mr. Simpson noted some of his questions were passed around via email. Looking at MIL calculation page, the Town will increase taxes .69%. Mr. Simpson said the BOF either has to increase Grand List or decrease the budget to have zero tax increase. He also referenced in order make 0% tax increase, \$760,000 needs to be found. Mr. Simpson said it is rather unlikely they will get to that number.

Mr. Madzula thanked the parties involved and agrees with the budget presented.

Mr. Gardner wanted to particularly commend the BOE and see a same-services budget.

Chair Roussas is satisfied that we have all of the information we need on both budgets and would like to start with BOS budget in terms of a vote.

Mr. Alexander moved to accept the BOS FY 2020-21 Budget including BOE line item as proposed by the BOS and BOE. Chris Gardner seconds. Discussion occurred around the motion. Matt Mihalcik made a motion to decrease the proposed FY 2020-21 BOE budget in the amount of \$100,000. Ned Simpson seconds. Mr. Simpson commented that BOE did a spectacular job with the budget; however, feels that they have funds to cover exceptional overages in the Non-Lapsing Account and the FY 2020-21 BOE budget should be reduced by \$100,000. Mr. Simpson reminded the BOE that the BOF is here if they have unexpected expenses. Mr. Alexander commented that he is not in favor of cutting the BOE budget.

Chair Roussas called for Roll Call for the amended motion stated above of the proposed BOS FY 2020-21 Budget with the BOE line item calling for the reduction of \$100,000 in the BOE budget.

Roll Call

Ned Simpson – Aye  
Chris Gardner - Nay  
Sandy Roussas- Aye  
Keith Alexander - Nay  
John Madzula- Aye  
Matt Mihalcik Aye

Motion carries.

Mr. Simpson made a motion that the Senior Center Member Fees/Program Fees Revenue be increased by \$5,000 to a total of \$20,000, and in Senior Center department, add a line item for Contract Services to pay for My Senior Center software annual maintenance fee of \$1,900 and the remainder to go into Other Expenditures. Matt Mihalcik seconded. Discussion occurred around the motion. Mr. Tait suggested the \$5,000 be added to Other Expenditures rather than two line items.

Mr. Gardner made a motion for a friendly amendment of an additional \$5,000 resulting in an increase to \$25,000 in revenue and \$10,000 added to Other Expenditures. Mr. Simpson and Mr. Mihalcik accepted the amendment. First Selectman Rosenthal said the need to increase further may not be necessary given they may be raising fees at the Senior Center.

Roll Call

Ned Simpson - Aye  
Chris Gardner Aye  
Sandy Roussas – Nay  
Keith Alexander - Nay  
John Madzula Nay  
Matt Mihalcik – Nay

Motion fails.

Keith Alexander moves to increase the Senior Center Member Fees/Program Fees revenue line item from \$15,000 to \$20,000 and distribute that into other expenditures in the Seniors Services Department. Ned Simpson seconds.

Roll Call

Ned Simpson - Aye  
Chris Gardner - Aye  
Sandy Roussas - Aye  
Keith Alexander - Aye

John Madzula - Aye  
Matt Mihalcik – Aye

Motion carries.

Chris Gardner made a motion to increase the Education Cost Savings (ECS) Grant revenue by \$50,000 from \$4.25MM to \$4.75MM. Ned Simpson seconds. Discussion occurred around the motion. Mr. Simpson noted this doesn't have anything to do with the School System per se. The variance is in the CT Legislature and believes this to be a safe, modest hand to the tax payer. Mr. Tait said the state plans to make reduction in about ten years and the town is planning for that. Chair Roussas said it's a good idea to position the Town for this anticipated reduction from the state. First Selectman Rosenthal stated that the notion of losing revenue from the state is inevitable and this will soften the landing. Mr. Alexander commented that money was taken away from BOE tonight potentially in the Non-Lapsing account and now we are suggesting money sit in the General Fund. Mr. Tait stated that if you think about Fund Balance and look at the budget history five or six years ago interest income was budgeted about \$350,000. This budget is \$1.2MM. The Fund Balance is supplying a great benefit to the tax payers and gives us great financial flexibility. Chair Roussas said this a great conversation to have in the future when we look at budget planning and budget projections.

Roll Call

Matt Mihalcik - Nay  
John Madzula- Nay  
Keith Alexander- Nay  
Sandy Roussas- Nay  
Chris Gardner- Aye  
Ned Simpson- Aye

Motion fails.

Mr. Mihalcik made a motion to reduce winter maintenance in the amount of \$15,000. Keith Alexander seconds for discussion.

Roll Call

Mat Mihalcik- Aye  
John Madzula- Nay  
Keith Alexander- Nay  
Sandy Roussas- Aye  
Chris Garnder- Nay  
Ned Simpson- Aye  
3-3 tie and motion fails.

Given no further discussion regarding the proposed budget, the following are totals for the BOS FY 2020-21 Budget with BOE line item:

BOS totals \$43, 224, 759

BOE totals \$79,101,776

TOTAL BUDGET \$122,326,535

Keith Alexander made a motion to approve the amended BOS FY 2020-21 budget in the amount of \$43, 224,759 including BOE line item \$79,101,776 with the grand total combined budget of \$122,326,535. John Madzula seconds including any possible rounding errors.

Roll Call

Ned Simpson - Aye  
Chris Gardner - Aye  
Sandy Roussas - Aye  
Keith Alexander - Aye  
John Madzula - Aye  
Matt Mihalcik – Aye

Motion passes.

**New Business**

None

**Voter Comments**

None

**Announcements**

Chair Roussas plans to present to the LC on Wed March 4<sup>th</sup> and invites Board members to attend.

**Adjournment**

Keith Alexander made a motion to adjourn. Chris Gardner seconded. All members were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kiley Gottschalk, Clerk

**Attachments**

LC BOS Questions

Additional BOS Questions

Town of Newtown Surplus

BOF Questions & Answers 2

BOF Questions 3

Newtown Senior Center Newsletter

Newtown Community Center – Public Building Maintenance

BOF Recommended 2020-21 Annual Budget

Economic Development Correspondence

## **TOWN/BOS BUDGET:**

1-BOS Tech Dept: Why is email storage costs increasing by \$4000 (nearly 10%)  
What is UPS maintenance (new cost at \$6500)

For the past 2 years our email pricing was based on promotional discounts which Google is no longer offering,

This UPS maintenance number is for the unit at the Municipal Center and the \$6500 represents the total commitment over 3 years. The annual number is \$2,167. Last year this was covered under the "OTHER" category.

2-Emergency Communications: Why increase of \$26,600 for rental equipment, Fiber Net Service (nearly 50% increase)

Emergency Communications : There are circuits being moved to 191 South Main (new facility) that requires a build from the state that changes current pricing structure that is in place. This connectivity is for the 911 and the COLLECT Criminal Justice systems. It is the cost of the build and connectivity that drive the monthly recurring fees.

Our Inter/Intranet fees have stayed the same from last year (and that connection is NOT part of this connection), this is the new fee for the other fiber and is not part of the construction costs. If we had not moved at all (PD or us) there would be no increase to my line items, but once the physical location changes it impacts the entire system and we then have to absorb the costs.

4-Fire Dept: With no new hydrants added, why maintenance increase of \$15,000 (almost 20%)

The hydrant account covers several things. First, we pay Aquarion Water for all of the municipal fire hydrants and the underground water distribution mains that supply them. This is about \$73,500. This is an increase of \$3500 compared to two years ago. Also, we need to provide and maintain an adequate firefighting water supply for the remainder of the town. There are currently 75 underground water storage tanks throughout town. These tanks are vital, as they protect areas that do not have hydrants. We repair some of them each year, for a total of \$4000 to \$8000. However, we have more tanks to repair, and we are now finding that several of them are starting to fail and will need more extensive repairs. This extra money will allow us to keep up with minor repairs, and to start addressing the more expensive ones.

5-Transfer Sta: How many households participate in curbside recycling? It's offered to all, but how many actually participate in a typical week? (what % of total hh's)?

#5 Transfer Station: How many households participate in curbside recycling? It's offered to all, but how many participate in a typical week? (what % of total households)

At the current time there is no definitive number. While the vendors cover every household every week they do not record who participates and who does not. On any given route you can have households that participate one week but not the next. We have considered using polling techniques to get a handle on this and other data for the

redesign of the entire solid waste/recycling system but we haven't moved forward yet waiting to see where the State is going.

6-Economic & Comm Dev: Adv/Deliverables/Media/etc. from \$2950 to \$3400 – why the increase? Lists consultant as part of detail. Also \$8000 for Marketing Plan/Branding/Web integration – paid to an external consultant. 6 Commerce Rd \$10K in 19-20, \$9.8K in 20-21. Why? This group does a lot of work, but what is town's ROI? What is tangible value of this work?

Would there be greater value to town in redistributing some funds toward greater support for Grants Administration?



1. What is the definition of Capital?
2. In Municipal accounting is there a concept of Depreciating capital expenses?
3. What are the guidelines for what is budget as Capital and what is funded by Capital Non-Recurring?

Department	e	2020-2021	2019-2020	2019	2018
Emergency Communications	117	\$ -			
Police - Vehicles	131	\$ 34,096			
Police Equipment	132	\$ 33,425	\$ 32,600		
Animal Control	135	\$ -			
Fire Capital	139	\$ 145,865	\$ 150,973	\$ 138,423	\$ 139,153
Fire Equipment	146	\$ 27,430			
Fire Capital	148	Note Major expenditures on turn out gear and other equip will be financed thru the capital non-recurring fund			
Emergency Management /N.U.S.A.R.	150	\$ 7,800	\$ -	\$ 9,718	\$ 2,182
Highway	163	\$ 160,000	\$ 163,050	\$ 461,243	\$ 155,850
Transfer Station	177	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 99,314	\$ 15,000
Pubic Building Maint	181	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,379	\$ 1,091
Land Use	219	\$ 2,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 2,004	\$ 1,518
Parks & Recreation	232	\$ 78,375	\$ 132,500	\$ 135,962	\$ 135,634
		\$ 590,991	\$ 526,123		

- 1) a capital asset is an asset that has a useful life more than one year.
- 2)not in governmental funds. in our enterprise funds we do (sewer and water). Depreciation is really a business concept. You are apportioning an assets cost over its useful life so as to match those costs with the assets revenue over the years (the matching principal).
- 3)Larger capital items are planned for the the capital non recurring fund. Capital items that are too large to fund all at once (putting pressure on taxes). In the cap non recurring fund we can fund over some years.

**TOWN OF NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT**  
**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES**  
**BUDGET AND ACTUAL - BUDGETARY BASIS - GENERAL FUND (Concluded)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019**

	<b>Budgeted Amounts</b>			<b>Variance With Final Budget Over (Under)</b>
	<b>Original</b>	<b>Final</b>	<b>Actual</b>	
Land Use	\$ 683,294	\$ 682,812	\$ 662,685	\$ (20,127)
Public Works:				
Highway	7,381,585	7,567,384	7,519,333	(48,051)
Winter maintenance	819,535	734,935	724,999	(9,936)
Transfer station	1,455,466	1,500,466	1,497,425	(3,041)
Public building maintenance	722,105	815,465	804,041	(11,424)
Total Public Works	10,378,691	10,618,250	10,545,798	(72,452)
Parks and Recreation	2,452,159	2,421,750	2,410,223	(11,527)
Education	76,054,231	75,725,459	75,725,459	-
Contingency	120,000	6,264	-	(6,264)
Debt Service:				
Principal	6,736,992	6,728,992	6,728,992	-
Interest and fiscal charges	2,253,376	2,253,376	2,253,376	-
	8,990,368	8,982,368	8,982,368	-
Other Financing Uses:				
Transfers out:				
Edmond Town Hall Fund	151,895	151,895	151,530	(365)
Capital and Nonrecurring Fund - Town	217,000	783,364	783,364	-
Capital and Nonrecurring Fund - Non-lapsing	-	328,772	328,772	-
Total Other Financing Uses	368,895	1,264,031	1,263,666	(365)
Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses	\$ 117,121,198	\$ 117,621,198	\$ 117,318,924	\$ (302,274) <i>Concluded</i>

BOE SURPLUS

BOS SURPLUS

Note: ignore brackets

**TOWN OF NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT**  
**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES**  
**BUDGET AND ACTUAL - BUDGETARY BASIS - GENERAL FUND (Concluded)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018**

	<b>Budgeted Amounts</b>			<b>Variance With Final Budget Over (Under)</b>
	<b>Original</b>	<b>Final</b>	<b>Actual</b>	
Land Use	\$ 684,451	\$ 669,771	\$ 663,714	\$ (6,057)
Public Works:				
Highway	7,033,307	6,767,098	6,735,941	(31,157)
Winter maintenance	727,047	788,493	788,132	(361)
Transfer station	1,391,911	1,446,620	1,440,157	(6,463)
Public building maintenance	710,925	729,425	713,508	(15,917)
Total Public Works	9,863,190	9,731,636	9,677,738	(53,898)
Parks and Recreation	2,406,118	2,406,118	2,396,849	(9,269)
Education	72,995,957	74,064,636	74,064,636	-
Contingency	200,000	2,133	-	(2,133)
Debt Service:				
Principal	6,766,194	6,766,194	6,766,194	-
Interest and fiscal charges	2,170,874	2,170,874	2,170,874	-
	8,937,068	8,937,068	8,937,068	-
Other Financing Uses:				
Transfers out:				
Edmond Town Hall Fund	143,505	143,505	143,191	(314)
Capital and Nonrecurring Fund - Town	225,000	1,244,500	1,244,500	-
Capital and Nonrecurring Fund - Non-lapsing	-	276,038	276,038	-
Total Other Financing Uses	368,505	1,664,043	1,663,729	(314)
Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses	\$ 113,395,532	\$ 115,127,013	\$ 114,834,385	\$ (292,628)
				<i>Concluded</i>

*See accompanying notes to required supplementary information.*

TOWN OF NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT  
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES  
BUDGET AND ACTUAL - BUDGETARY BASIS - GENERAL FUND (Concluded)  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017**

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance With Final Budget Over (Under)
	Original	Final		
Land Use	\$ 705,308	\$ 703,364	\$ 682,416	\$ (20,948)
Public Works:				
Highway	6,957,671	6,825,621	6,726,939	(98,682)
Winter maintenance	789,141	789,141	788,243	(898)
Transfer station	1,384,221	1,391,221	1,386,475	(4,746)
Public building maintenance	761,112	751,112	736,216	(14,896)
Total Public Works	9,892,145	9,757,095	9,637,873	(119,222)
Parks and Recreation	2,414,273	2,367,273	2,340,378	(26,895)
Education	73,665,065	73,567,123	73,567,123	-
Contingency	200,000	24,452	-	(24,452)
Debt Service:				
Principal	6,991,538	6,991,538	6,906,538	(85,000)
Interest and fiscal charges	2,333,936	2,333,936	2,333,701	(235)
	9,325,474	9,325,474	9,240,239	(85,235)
Other Financing Uses:				
Transfers out:				
Edmond Town Hall Fund	129,972	129,972	129,767	(205)
Capital and Nonrecurring Fund - Town	295,000	677,300	677,300	-
Capital and Nonrecurring Fund - <b>Non-lapsing</b>	-	97,942	<b>97,942</b>	-
Total Other Financing Uses	424,972	905,214	905,009	(205)
Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses	\$ 114,182,379	\$ 114,182,379	\$ 113,440,612	\$ <b>(741,767)</b>
				Concluded

See accompanying Independent Auditor's Report.

2016

SCHEDULE 2  
(2 of 2)TOWN OF NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL FUND

## SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL (CONCLUDED)

	ORIGINAL BUDGET	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE WITH FINAL BUDGET
LAND USE.....	\$ 675,316	\$ 680,011	\$ 674,599	\$ 5,412
PUBLIC WORKS:				
Highway.....	6,870,001	6,832,981	6,827,224	5,757
Winter maintenance.....	735,531	699,531	698,441	1,090
Transfer Station.....	1,471,478	1,468,554	1,466,716	1,838
Public building maintenance.....	783,341	773,794	770,716	3,078
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS.....	9,860,351	9,774,860	9,763,097	11,763
PARKS AND RECREATION.....	2,331,472	2,271,538	2,266,532	5,006
EDUCATION.....	71,587,946	71,585,413	71,585,413	-
CONTINGENCY.....	350,000	174	-	174
DEBT SERVICE.....	10,110,702	10,106,402	10,106,365	37
TOTAL EXPENDITURES.....	111,395,709	111,229,261	111,160,571	68,690
OTHER FINANCING USES:				
Transfers out:				
Bonded projects.....		30,800	30,800	-
Edmond Town Hall .....	84,804	84,619	84,615	4
Capital and nonrecurring - Town.....	250,000	383,300	383,300	-
Capital and nonrecurring - non-lapsing.....		2,533	2,533	-
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES.....	334,804	501,252	501,248	4
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES.....	\$ 111,730,513	\$ 111,730,513	\$ 111,661,819	\$ 68,694

(Concluded)

2015

TOWN OF NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT

GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL (CONCLUDED)

	ORIGINAL BUDGET	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE WITH FINAL BUDGET
LAND USE.....	\$ 617,036	\$ 679,018	\$ 673,894	\$ 5,124
PUBLIC WORKS:				
Highway.....	6,673,711	6,929,264	6,915,185	14,079
Winter maintenance.....	707,119	987,450	985,541	1,909
Transfer Station.....	1,475,809	1,330,509	1,327,856	2,653
Public building maintenance.....	786,090	745,090	738,347	6,743
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS.....	9,642,729	9,992,313	9,966,929	25,384
PARKS AND RECREATION.....	2,244,068	2,268,441	2,263,018	5,423
EDUCATION.....	71,345,304	71,332,395	71,332,395	-
CONTINGENCY.....	250,000	1,947		1,947
DEBT SERVICE.....	10,342,994	10,306,719	10,306,272	447
TOTAL EXPENDITURES.....	110,816,485	111,101,607	111,006,031	95,576
OTHER FINANCING USES:				
Transfers out:				
Edmond Town Hall .....	99,719	99,719	99,567	152
Capital and nonrecurring.....	150,000	150,000	150,000	-
Board of Education non-lapsing.....		12,909	12,909	-
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES.....	249,719	262,628	262,476	152
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES.....	\$ 111,066,204	\$ 111,364,235	\$ 111,268,507	\$ 95,728

(Concluded)

## BOF Questions 2/20/2020

### **Transportation:**

	2016 -17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
District Student Enrollment		4,369	4,268	4,151	4,086
Buses	42.5	46	46	46	46
High School Parking Passes	400	400	400	400	400

**What are the number of high school parking passes issued since 2017-18?**

There are 400 parking spaces assigned to students. The fee is \$100 per space, so we collect about \$40,000 per year. Increasing the amount given back to the Town as revenue from \$20,000 to \$30,000 would leave a balance of \$10,000 in the account for parking stickers, gate maintenance, cameras and safety devices.

**Why haven't we been able to reduce buses with a reduction of 283 students?**

Note: In 2016-17 we were running 42.5 busses on a three tier system which required six and one half hours of running time. In 2017-18 we switched to a two tier system which started the day about one hour later and requires five and a half hours of running time. The bus contract was renegotiated with these provisions in mind. The two tier bus cost is \$5,369 less per bus. The compression of time required 3.5 additional busses to cover the geography in the reduced time period.

The additional buses were covered by the daily cost reduction for a "no cost" solution to the transportation arrangement for the school start time and two-tier system. Since we went to the two-tier system with the elementary shuttle arrangement, all buses are running at a greater capacity with significant time constraints between the tiers in order to maintain the prior dismissal time. Routes cannot be consolidated as this would require more time between tiers and would impact numerous routes.

Additionally, Newtown is one of the largest towns in Connecticut, and population density is low. Because of this, bus routes in Newtown are longer on average than many surrounding towns. Reducing the number of buses, even if technically feasible (based on passenger load), would likely increase ride lengths.

**What savings would a reduction of one bus and two buses yield?**

One bus will cost \$65,629.20 for 2020-21. Two buses would cost \$131,258.40.

**Have there been any spending freezes in budget year 2019-2020? If so, for how long and why?**

There have not been any spending freezes in 2019-20

## **Staffing:**

**The 2019-2020 Budget requested 741.73 FTEs; however, the current 2019-2020 budget reflects an increase of 2.57 FTEs. What was the actual cost of this increase and how was that funded?**

The Staffing by Function table in the budget book indicates a net increase of 2.57 staff that actually results from increases in special education and pupil personnel and decreases in all other instructional functions. The changes are a complex and include teachers, specialists, paras, therapists and a job coach. The cost of these changes is covered by the turnover and movement of all staff that has occurred since the beginning of the year. Some of these changes have resulted in savings, such as when a hired staff member replaces a person with less seniority or might begin later in the year than expected. Additionally, non-certified changes (paraprofessionals) may have simply increased hours or when a para is hired due to a new SPED need. The 2.57 is a result of a multitude of changes overall.

**Is this the increase in the certified salaries of \$271,860?**

The total of budgeted to current certified salaries overall is the same (see pages 23 & 24). All the elementary current is less than budgeted along with Reed, the Middle school and Pupil Personnel. There are slight increases in High, Special Ed, curriculum and General Services. (You can see this by looking at the summary page following each tab.)

It appears you got this number - \$271,860 - by calculating the difference between the 2019-20 budgeted amounts for certified salaries \$989,816 and the current amount anticipated to be spent \$1,261,676 (page 154).

The \$989,816 budgeted includes an allowance for turnover, a negative number that is planned to be covered by replacing personnel at lower rates of pay. Compare the current to 2017-18 and 2018-19 expended to see the pattern and then compare the budgeted to requested.



### **Elementary School:**

**Why is there an increase of \$334,252 in certified salaries when the increase of students is only 28? Are we adding classes because of this increase?**

**The increase in certified salaries is due to two factors: 1) the contractual increase in salaries (page 188) a net increase in staffing at the elementary schools of 0.4 FTE (page 19). The largest part of the increase is due to salary increases/contractual obligations.**

## **BOE BUDGET:**

1. In 2018 the BOE asked for and received \$100,000. to add to their out of district special needs transportation account. In 2019 the BOE asked for an additional \$100,000. to again add to their out of district special needs transportation account.

These asks were not for 'special needs transportation'. We believe you are referring to the special education contingency.

To clarify the origin and purpose of the Special Education (SPED) contingency line in the budget, this was added to the 2018-19 budget for any unforeseen SPED costs due to new students coming into the district or newly identified (including tuition, transportation, teachers, paraeducators, BT's, BCBA, professional services, specialized services, equipment, supplies and materials, or any other expenses required by a student's IEP). When the SPED Contingency line was added to the BOE budget in 2018, the intent was to provide a fiscally responsible means of "self-insuring" over time against unpredictable SPED costs (see the SPED History of Spending from the ). The BOE resolved that any unused portion of the contingency at the conclusion of the fiscal year would be deposited into the non-lapsing fund and earmarked for future SPED costs (see attached resolution). Clearly, \$100K would not cover the average \$420K shortfall in SPED (based on experience over the last 8 years). However, it was a step in the right direction. The intent was to continue this practice until the non-lapsing education account accumulated enough earmarked SPED funds to cover shortfalls. Currently, there is \$63K earmarked for SPED in the education non-lapsing account.

1- In 2018 how much more than the original budget amount (not including the additional \$100,000). was needed/spent?

It is unclear whether this question is about SPED costs or the total budget. The fiscal year ending in 2018 did not have a \$100K contingency line for SPED in the budget. There was \$58,727 surplus in the SPED budget that year, and \$276,038 (0.38% of the budget) was deposited in the education non-lapsing account.

2- In 2019 how much more than the original budget amount (including the first additional \$100,000) was needed/spent?

The first year that the SPED contingency line was implemented was 2018-19. There was \$60,344 surplus in the SPED budget at the end of 2019 (the contingency contributed to this surplus), and \$328,772 (0.43% of the budget) was deposited in the education non-lapsing account. In the fiscal year ending 2019, the SPED actual spend was \$70,507 in excess of the budget. Some of the excess was paid for through the contingency line (\$36,629) and the remainder was paid for by transfers from other areas. Magnet school tuition was \$18,000 under budget and secondary (VoAg, ACES, CES and Regional tuition) was also under budget by \$15,878.

If you are referring to the current year (2019-20), we do not yet know how much will be needed, but we are currently anticipating more than \$200K in excess of the budget.

With an additional \$200,000. in the special needs transportation budget, it seems the BOE has been having \$300,000 to \$400,000 surplus the last two years.

The average for the last two years is \$302,405; \$328,772 for last year and \$276,038 for the year prior. (Again, not transportation)

The SPED Contingency line was first included in the budget in the 2018-19 fiscal year. As noted elsewhere, history indicates that this contingency is not likely to cover the fluctuations in unanticipated SPED costs. However, in the first year, only \$36,629 of the contingency line was used because savings in other lines of the budget allowed transfer of money to cover SPED excess costs. and \$63,000 was earmarked for future SPED costs in the education non-lapsing fund.

Every year, there are usually funds left at the end of the budget year. This is the result of careful planning to avoid running in the red. Having a small positive balance is desirable and dependent on:

- a. Precision in projecting a budget a year before it is all applied;
- b. Unusually positive outcomes – fewer unanticipated events (such as weather, equipment failure) and changes in staffing or delays in hiring. These can fluctuate from year-to-year and are usually out of our control.

How the unknowns play out – staff turnover, repairs, weather clean-up, energy costs, SPED – are all risks that are built in to the budget. SPED costs hold the most risk, running \$1M over budget in two of the last five years.

The educational non-lapsing fund was set up by the BOF as a means of encouraging the BOE to save surpluses at the end of the year rather than use as much as possible to pay down the following year's supplies (for example). A variance of 1-2% in the planned budget versus spending is not unusual. The surpluses at the end of the year have historically been less than 1%.

<b>Money Remaining at the End of the Budget Year</b>					
	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
<b>District</b> <b>(% of operating Budget)</b>	\$12,909 (0.01%)	\$2,533 (0.0%)	\$97,942 (0.13%)	\$276,038 (0.38%)	*\$328,772 (0.43%)
<b>Unanticipated SPED costs</b>	(\$409,933)	(\$1,096,017)	\$58,727	(\$1,269,529)	*\$60,344

In 2016/17 the out of district transportation cost was listed as \$1,064,744.

In 2016-17 the cost was \$809,966, (page 214 of the approved operating budget for 2019-20)

In 2017/18 the out of district transportation cost was listed as \$694,706. Was there really a \$370,038 savings?

The difference in expended for these years was \$115,260. Keep in mind that special education transportation changes from year to year based on the placements of students, whether we can combine students/routes, students graduating out and of course, new students. The distribution of the excess cost grant revenue also has an effect on actual expenditures if the overall cost of educating that student exceeds four and a half times our average per pupil cost. In some cases if we combine a route for efficiency it could prevent a student from exceeding the threshold.

In 2018/19 the out of district transportation cost was listed as \$660,296. Was there an additional \$34,410 savings?

This is the difference in expended for these two years. However, it may be viewed as savings but it is not something that will continue to carry forward for the reasons enumerated in the above question. Transportation and tuition have always been perhaps the most volatile accounts in the special education department as one or two out placements can carry a rather large price tag.

In 2019/20 the out of district transportation cost was listed as \$671,977. an additional \$11,681 cost vs 2018/19.

Correct.

In 2020/21 the out of district transportation cost is listed as \$698,390. an additional \$26,413 cost vs 2019/20. If this is correct, there is an overall savings of \$366,354 from 2016/17 to 2020/21.

The reduction in cost from 2020-21 requested to the 2016-17 expended is \$111,576. (\$809,966 for 2016-17 and \$698,390 for 2020-21, page 173 of the current requested budget to page 214 of the current approved operating budget.)

3- Why was there a need for the additional \$100,000 added in 2018/ and another \$100,000 added again in 2019?

Assuming you are referring to the SPED Contingency line, this line has been added to the budget as a means of mitigating year to year volatility in SPED costs. As can be seen on page 17 of the budget, SPED costs have risen significantly over time, and as can be seen by the SPED History of Spending (at the end of this document), these costs can be difficult to predict, averaging more than \$400K in unanticipated costs per year over the last 8 years. The addition of \$100K in contingency, while not fully addressing the projected risk, helps to mitigate the fluctuations and disruption in other accounts.

Additionally, the BOE's resolution to place any unused portion of the contingency into the education non-lapsing account, earmarked for SPED costs, will help alleviate future excess costs in SPED.

4- This being the fourth year of a five year contract with Allstar transportation, Have the BOE put the contract out to bid yet per BOE policy?  
The 2020-21 year is officially the 4th year of the contract. It is too early for the bid.

5-Re: shared services - no new initiatives were proposed for this year. Were there ideas that were rejected? If yes, which ones and why?

There were no no initiatives regarding shared services with the Town, as we already share multiple services at that level, including a Purchasing Agent. However, we share services between districts, such as some transportation of students, as well as "in house" staffing between schools. All of these result in cost savings.

6-There is a \$341k increase in benefits costs for this year, driven by a \$237k increase in medical. How does the overall increase compare to prior years? What's driving the increase in medical year over year? Does it imply anything for the future or is it unpredictable year-to-year?

We have been very fortunate with our experiences with our combined self insurance fund for medical and dental benefits. Where many other Towns were dealing with double digit increases based on their medical claims and their funding arrangements ours has not exceeded 3% in the last four years and has actually declined in the two prior years. ( -1.5% and -7.4%) It is accurate to say the fund has been very stable and the future funding requirements, absent any new mandates, should be in the same range as our historical experience. Our total funding requirements are currently less than they were in 2017-18. The current increase has been reviewed and approved by the Employee Benefits Management Board and our consultant as prudent in order to maintain a sufficient overall balance for the fund.

7-What will be the impact of going down by one assistant principal at the high school? How will the work be distributed to remaining administrators? Is this at all related to hiring a curriculum director two years ago?

The enrollment decrease at the HS warrants decreases in staffing, including administration. There were only two Asst Principals when there were over 1600 students and moved to three Ass't Principals when enrollment continued to increase (an addition to the HS was built as a response to that increase in 2010).. Over time, we maintained the administrative staffing levels to support the changes to teacher evaluation, even when enrollment began decreasing. Further, we added a new SPED supervisor (administrator) for 9-12 which provided an additional level of support including staff evaluation.

The reduction of an Assistant Principal has nothing to do with the hiring of a Director of Teaching and Learning, as this reduction would have occurred due to enrollment at the HS. Decisions are made in the best interest of the district needs and students when we make staffing adjustments.

8-Middle Gate 3rd grade - current plan includes eliminating a teacher for next year, driving a substantial increase in class sizes (from 19/20 to 24/25, which is the high end of the class size guideline). This is a good bit higher than all other elementary schools. Why are we pushing the high end of the guideline in this case when similarly-sized classes in other schools are often handled by 4 teachers?

As was stated at a BOE meeting and reiterated by the Principal of Middle Gate, we monitor classes that reach the high end of the class size guideline. In this case, if another teacher were added, it would actually bring the class size average at Middle Gate lower than the other schools at the 3rd grade level, which is why it is always challenging (often impossible) to have every school in complete alignment. We have guidelines for a reason and must make decisions in alignment with those expectations.

If we go over in one class, we might decide to get a para in that room to support the teacher. If these numbers change dramatically in the early summer, we could make a decision to add a teacher. However, we would never make a change late in the season after students are placed with their teachers.

On average, Middle Gate is at 16.8 average K-2 and 22 average for grades 3-4 in class average for 2020-21 (as seen on the bottom of the chart on page 44).

9-Reduction in phys Ed teachers at the elementary level - can you explain? There's been a lot of talk about reduction in music teachers but haven't heard as much about Phys Ed.

Losing total .6 (which is across all buildings). Buildings that used to share the PE are no longer sharing. Hawley and Head O' Meadow will have 1.0 FTE PE for the building. Larger buildings such as Middle Gate and Sandy Hook will have 1.5 PE each (no sharing). The program delivery will remain the same.

10-Could we get further detail on pupil service increase. It looked as if the number of special ed students hadn't increased. I could have easily missed something.

Pupil Personnel has increased due to the inclusion of two counselors and a 0.4 Social Worker that were previously in place and funded by a grant that is expiring.

The number of SPED students (which is different from special education) has actually increased since the budget was submitted. On page 130, SPED population was identified as 595 students in the current year. However, since then we are over the anticipated 621, and this continues to grow and will throughout the remainder of the year.

11-Has the decreased enrollment affected the bus needs? Do we need as many busses?

In 2016-17 we were running 42.5 busses on a three tier system which required six and one half hours of running time. In 2017-18 we switched to a two tier system which started the day about one hour later and requires five and a half hours of running time. The bus contract was renegotiated with these provisions in mind. The two tier bus cost is \$5,369 less per bus. The compression of time required 3.5 additional busses to cover the geography in the reduced time period. The additional buses were covered by the daily cost reduction for a no cost solution to this bussing arrangement.

Since we went to the two-tier system with the elementary shuttle arrangement, all buses are running at a greater capacity with significant time constraints between the tiers in order to maintain the prior dismissal time. Routes cannot be consolidated as such would require more time between tiers and affect numerous routes.

Additionally, Newtown is one of the largest towns in Connecticut, and population density is low. Because of this, bus routes in Newtown are longer on average than many surrounding towns. Reducing the number of buses, even if technically feasible (based on passenger load), would likely increase ride lengths.

12-Other accounts has a sizeable decrease of \$386K. What helped cause the reduction? Are we doing something more efficiently?

Professional services, Property Services, Supplies, Equipment and Other, account for this decrease. Annually during budget development all accounts are reviewed and needs are assessed. Simply stated the budget is not an increase to the prior budget but a review of all accounts with current projections included and a reasonable estimate of what is needed for next year. We are doing things more efficiently which contributes to our ability to reduce accounts

moving forward. Expected levels of required professional services are estimated based on contracts that are due, property declines result from more effective bidding and reducing certain contracted services and reduced maintenance projects, supplies are reduced due to lower energy requirements and price and reduced student enrollment, equipment has been cut back as well.

13-Did we use special ed contingency last year? How is the surplus being treated?

\$37,000 of the contingency was used last year with the balance being appropriated to the Non Lapsing account.

14-Can we get more detail on purchased professional services? When we look back a few years ago we were paying \$45K. Last few years it has almost been double. What that prior year an anomaly?

If you are looking at 'Regular Instruction All Schools', in 2017-18 we did spend \$45,825 for Purchased Professional Services where the current request is for \$71,325. That year was most certainly an anomaly as a budget freeze was declared in September due to pressures from special education needs due to student move in's. It was also the year that the State had held up Municipal Aid and the Council had to restore over \$1 million in special education funds which were planned to be a special grant which never materialized. This account which includes funds for staff training and development would have been one that would have been frozen.

15-Would be great to show the major increases since 2013 when we had 336 Teachers and now we only have 285.

As can be seen in the budget, the reductions in staffing (p. 19) rarely offset the increases in the overall salary increases that are based on contractual increases (p. 23). In 2020-21, a net savings of \$293,346 that comes from changes in staffing levels, reduces the overall salary line, yet there is still an increase of \$939,239 in salaries year-over-year.

a. Basis of the question is so we can really point to the reduction of teacher being an aspect of the budget, but the increase of special ed (and any other major ticket items) seeing a big increase

It is difficult to attribute the increase in the budget to any one thing. Savings have been realized due to decreases in staff, energy efficiencies, transportation costs and program changes. These savings are offset by increases in wages, health benefits, technology, security, mandated changes (such as testing requirements, curriculum changes, and teacher supports), and program changes (such as full day kindergarten, social-emotional learning, and mental health supports). As can be seen on page 17 of the budget, the Special Education budget has increased consistently over the past twelve years and makes up roughly half of the total increase in spending over that twelve year period.

b. Are we using all class room space?

No. While the elementary schools are increasing the use of classroom space as enrollment increases, Reed and the Middle School are seeing decreased use as the result of declining enrollment. Some elementary schools have more room for increases than others. The district has the challenge of accommodating a dynamic population in which peaks and troughs move through the buildings at different times. So, while Sandy Hook School has limited room for increased enrollment over the next five years, the high school is predicted to have space available over the longer term.

c. Were all of our rooms just overcrowded in 2010?

Both the educational requirements and the buildings have changed since 2010. The new Sandy Hook School has fewer classrooms, and the high school has a new addition. The district has added full day kindergarten, doubling the need for kindergarten classrooms, the state has mandated testing that requires computer rooms, and special education needs have increased.

16-What are Middlegates biggest needs? I know this is a broad question, but it is one of our oldest buildings, but also has the second largest student population on the elementary side. The CIP only had Windows as a major concern. Just wondering what are the other issues

On page 166 you can find a number of needs that have been identified for completion over the next five years. Emergency issues are taken care of as they occur.

17-Why is middle gate taking away a teacher in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and raising the average class size to 25?

The decision to remove a staff member results in a need at Kindergarten level (+1 FTE) due to the enrollment there and the class size guidelines to stay within 15-18 students. While the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is at the peak of the guideline, adding an additional teacher would reduce the average to 18.5 students. Our guidelines need to have meaning, and sometimes certain classes within a grade level might reach the top of the guideline.

As we emphasized throughout the budget process and what is implied in our class size policy, appropriate class sizes are not only about numbers. In one case in the last year, we kept a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade cohort smaller at Middle Gate due to the number of SPED and 504 students and that smaller class moved to 4<sup>th</sup> grade as well. We make decisions about class size around the population and their needs - often even more important than the number of students.

18-Do you have participation numbers for the clubs and sports in the middle and reed schools? Are all those programs worth it? When was the last time we evaluated the return?

Yes. These programs are worth the effort and financing since these are part of the educational experience that we are committed to providing our students. Our intermediate and MS students need to feel part of a community and a sense of belonging. Being involved in athletics, clubs,



and after school activities supports this goal. All lessons are not merely learned in a classroom. Students learn teamwork, collaboration, communication, creativity, decision making and technological skills through clubs and sports. Most middle schools in the state support extra-curricular sports and activities. The cost for each school is as follows:

MS = \$ 96,083

RIS = \$35,000

Newtown Middle School has a wide variety of afterschool activities that try to meet the interests of our students. Providing opportunities for students to make connections to their school is critical especially during the middle school years. There are a number of activities that not only provide this opportunity for connection but also offer an activity that enhances the school community and great Newtown community as well. These include: Student Council, our award winning Literary Magazine, Yearbook and Interact Club. Over the years the Middle School has eliminated those activities that have had low participation rates. New clubs/activities/sports have been started as well, these include but are not limited to: CrossCountry, Unified Sports, Gaming Club, Technology Club, Robotics and Debate Club.

**The charts below identify participation rates in clubs and activities across RIS and NMS.**

# RIS Clubs 2019-20

Activity			
American Sign Language	17		
Bucket Band	55		
Chamber Orchestra	17		
Chess Club			Low enrollment/will be offered in Spring
Citizens Science Club			Low enrollment/will be offered in Spring
Comic Drawing Club Fall	17		
Comic Drawing Club Spring			Will be offered in Spring
Computer Fall	17		
Drama	165		Includes cast and crew
Flag Football	36		
Floor Hockey/Bball	28		
French	25		
Garden Club Fall	20		
Garden Club Spring			Will be offered in Spring

<b>Activity</b>	<b># of Student</b>
JV Boys Basketball	12-15
JV Girls Basketball	12-15
Varsity Boys Basketball	10-12
Varsity Girls Basketball	10-12
Boys Baseball & Assistant Baseball Coach	12-14
Girls Softball & Assistant Softball Coach	12-14
Basketball Scheduling	n/a
Baseball/Softball Scheduling	n/a
Intramurals Ski/Snowboard Club	68
Intramurals Zero Hour PE	10-15
Intramurals Floor Hockey	12-15
Student Council	20-25+
Yearbook	10-20
Jazz Band Director	23-40
Lit Magazine	10-25
Chamber Orchestra	25
Robotics	13-23
Interact	6-10
Math Team	30-40
Gaming Club	20-30
Piñata Club	12-20
Technology Club	10-30
Art Club NMS	40
Cross Country Coaches	50-60

UNIFIED Soccer, Volleyball and Basketball Coach & Assistant Coach	20-30
Debate Club *NEW*	20-30

19 - What is the balance in the high school parking passes account? The past 4 years they have only been using half of what's collected.

Currently, the balance is \$81,000. This account has been used for unanticipated needs at the high school, including signage, fencing, guard shack, and other maintenance opportunities. For example, we have used the account for cameras, as well as maintenance to the guard shack arms and guardrails.

## **RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE NEWTOWN BOE 3/20/2018**

WHEREAS, The Board of Education has included a line item in the budget for Special Education Contingency; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education recognizes that guidelines for the use of such monies should be specified; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education policy for the Non-lapsing Education Fund, P3171.1, addresses the education non-lapsing account without addressing Special Education Contingency; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Special Education Contingency line item be used for unforeseen Special Education expenses that may result from students moving into the district, from court placements, from DCYS, from mediated settlements, and changes to IEPs; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Special Education Contingency line item be used to cover additional costs that are expected to exceed the Special Education budget in total; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Special Education Contingency line item be available for expense overages as presented to the BOE; for tuition, transportation, teachers, paraeducators, BT's, BCBA, professional services, specialized services, equipment, supplies and materials, or any other expenses required by a student's IEP; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this line item only be used for Special Education purposes for expenditures so noted above; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education request of the Board of Finance that any balance in the Special Education Contingency line at the end of the fiscal year be deposited in the non-lapsing education fund and be designated for Special Education purposes, and that these monies retain the Special Education designation within the account; and be it further

RESOLVED, That prior to any expenditure from the non-lapsing account, the Board of Education will vote to authorize such spending, and the Board will expend these funds for such previously designated purpose except under extraordinary or emergency circumstances.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE HISTORY

### SUMMARY BY OBJECT

OBJECT	2011-12			2012-13			2013-14			2014-15		
	APPROVED			APPROVED			APPROVED			APPROVED		
	BUDGET	EXPENDED	DIFFERENCE	BUDGET	EXPENDED	DIFFERENCE	BUDGET	EXPENDED	DIFFERENCE	BUDGET	EXPENDED	DIFFERENCE
111 CERTIFIED SALARIES	\$3,454,402	\$3,326,615	\$127,787	\$3,406,115	\$3,263,662	\$142,453	\$3,463,116	\$3,448,513	\$14,603	\$3,417,165	\$3,563,235	(\$146,070)
112 NON-CERTIFIED SALARIES	\$1,878,277	\$2,030,991	(\$152,714)	\$2,190,069	\$2,077,220	\$112,849	\$2,278,109	\$2,352,679	(\$74,570)	\$2,602,342	\$2,615,674	(\$13,332)
300 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$104,756	\$254,402	(\$149,646)	\$168,428	\$270,999	(\$102,571)	\$266,272	\$155,445	\$110,827	\$139,645	\$198,600	(\$58,955)
322 STAFF TRAINING	\$6,100	\$8,539	(\$2,439)	\$6,100	\$15,435	(\$9,335)	\$8,600	\$10,713	(\$2,113)	\$8,600	\$6,688	\$1,912
430 EQUIPMENT RENTAL	\$22,304	\$22,347	(\$43)	\$36,244	\$23,493	\$12,751	\$37,331	\$39,298	(\$1,967)	\$37,331	\$47,035	(\$9,704)
500 CONTRACTED SERVICES	\$20,360	\$14,048	\$6,312	\$15,360	\$22,298	(\$6,938)	\$12,860	\$19,465	(\$6,605)	\$14,264	\$21,451	(\$7,187)
560 TUITION - OUT OF DISTRICT	\$958,915	\$1,221,374	(\$262,459)	\$1,225,326	\$1,734,422	(\$509,096)	\$1,958,127	\$1,889,945	\$68,182	\$1,988,341	\$2,173,375	(\$185,034)
580 STUDENT TRAVEL & STAFF MILEAGE	\$7,500	\$9,663	(\$2,163)	\$7,500	\$7,904	(\$404)	\$7,500	\$7,081	\$419	\$7,500	\$6,865	\$635
611 SUPPLIES	\$62,268	\$82,460	(\$20,192)	\$62,268	\$69,394	(\$7,126)	\$62,268	\$62,507	(\$239)	\$64,268	\$57,128	\$7,140
641 TEXTBOOKS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
734 EQUIPMENT	\$9,200	\$7,786	\$1,414	\$4,600	\$4,821	(\$221)	\$9,200	\$0	\$9,200	\$9,200	\$7,626	\$1,574
810 MEMBERSHIPS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,590	(\$590)	\$1,000	\$1,947	(\$947)	\$1,000	\$1,912	(\$912)
	\$6,524,082	\$6,978,225	(\$454,143)	\$7,123,010	\$7,491,238	(\$368,228)	\$8,104,383	\$7,987,593	\$116,790	\$8,289,656	\$8,699,589	(\$409,933)

OBJECT	2015-16			2016-17			2017-18			2018-19		
	APPROVED			APPROVED			APPROVED			APPROVED		
	BUDGET	EXPENDED	DIFFERENCE	BUDGET	EXPENDED	DIFFERENCE	BUDGET	EXPENDED	DIFFERENCE	BUDGET	EXPENDED	DIFFERENCE
111 CERTIFIED SALARIES	\$3,655,221	\$3,680,555	(\$25,334)	\$3,903,185	\$3,842,698	\$60,487	\$3,985,931	\$3,924,966	\$60,965	\$3,995,524	\$3,848,919	\$146,605
112 NON-CERTIFIED SALARIES	\$2,624,504	\$2,625,950	(\$1,446)	\$2,821,343	\$2,865,881	(\$44,538)	\$3,034,269	\$2,946,707	\$87,562	\$3,125,491	\$3,067,312	\$58,179
300 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$144,602	\$348,245	(\$203,643)	\$164,602	\$138,788	\$25,814	\$164,602	\$167,997	(\$3,395)	\$149,602	\$166,166	(\$16,564)
322 STAFF TRAINING	\$30,000	\$8,630	\$21,370	\$25,000	\$22,740	\$2,260	\$25,000	\$14,123	\$10,877	\$25,000	\$23,195	\$1,805
430 EQUIPMENT RENTAL	\$37,331	\$33,951	\$3,380	\$37,331	\$27,422	\$9,909	\$37,331	\$34,901	\$2,430	\$37,331	\$32,996	\$4,335
500 CONTRACTED SERVICES	\$15,860	\$36,847	(\$20,987)	\$25,000	\$15,113	\$9,887	\$25,000	\$17,283	\$7,717	\$25,000	\$47,644	(\$22,644)
560 TUITION - OUT OF DISTRICT	\$2,265,317	\$3,136,813	(\$871,496)	\$2,990,002	\$2,992,727	(\$2,725)	\$1,803,657	\$3,251,627	(\$1,447,970)	\$2,936,449	\$3,136,956	(\$200,507)
580 STUDENT TRAVEL & STAFF MILEAGE	\$7,500	\$8,955	(\$1,455)	\$8,300	\$7,508	\$792	\$8,300	\$8,383	(\$83)	\$8,300	\$11,970	(\$3,670)
611 SUPPLIES	\$59,268	\$58,872	\$396	\$64,138	\$62,533	\$1,605	\$67,388	\$55,130	\$12,258	\$67,388	\$70,551	(\$3,163)
641 TEXTBOOKS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
734 EQUIPMENT	\$9,200	\$5,252	\$3,948	\$9,200	\$14,469	(\$5,269)	\$9,200	\$9,200	\$0	\$9,200	\$14,002	(\$4,802)
810 MEMBERSHIPS	\$1,000	\$1,750	(\$750)	\$1,900	\$1,395	\$505	\$1,900	\$1,790	\$110	\$1,900	\$1,130	\$770
910 CONTINGENCY	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
	\$8,849,803	\$9,945,820	(\$1,096,017)	\$10,050,001	\$9,991,274	\$58,727	\$9,162,578	\$10,432,107	(\$1,269,529)	\$10,481,185	\$10,420,841	\$60,344





# NEWSLETTER

*News for and about Newtown Seniors  
A publication of the Newtown Senior Center*

**March/April 2020 Edition**



8 Simpson Street, Newtown, CT 06470 Tel. (203) 270-4310

Hours: Monday through Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## *Save the Dates* **SENIOR CENTER**



**Tax Season... February 3rd to April 6th  
Every Monday from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Paperwork is at the front desk for completion to bring to your appointment. Please bring all of your paperwork, statements, forms, etc. to your appointment. Failure to do so may result in not being able to complete your returns. By appointment only. Read on for further information.

**AARP Driving Course...March 13th at 12:30 pm**

**Mother's Day Tea... May 8, 2020**

## *Notes from* **PARKS AND RECREATION**



**Senior Citizen Spring Fling Dinner Dance  
Friday, May 15, 2020, Newtown High School**

Cafetorium, 4:30-8:00 pm. Join Newtown Parks and Recreation, The Community Center, and The Senior Center for our 5th annual dance! Dinner provided by the Newtown High School Culinary Group. Enjoy dinner, dancing, trivia, and more! Invite your grandchild to be your dance partner (13+). Fee is \$15 per person for ages 55+ (Activity Code: 314105 – A) Register in person at the Senior Center or with Parks and Recreation at 8 Simpson St. Online registration at [newtown-ct.gov/parks-recreation](http://newtown-ct.gov/parks-recreation) or call (203) 270-4340.

## *Save the Dates* **COMMUNITY CENTER**



**Newtown**  
COMMUNITY CENTER

**Wellness Wednesdays at the Community Center  
with Nuvance Health - FREE!  
Wednesday, April 15 at 6:00 pm**

Margaret O'Shea, complimentary and alternative medicine coordinator at Danbury Hospital, will present Aromatherapy for Stress Reduction on:

What is aromatherapy?

How can aromatherapy reduce stress?

What are its other benefits for health and healing?

### **YMCA's Diabetes Prevention Program**

If you're at risk for type 2 diabetes, you can make small, measurable changes that can reduce your risk and help you live a happier, healthier life. Change is tough—we can help.

Program Features:

25 sessions delivered over the course of one year.

Led by a trained Lifestyle Coach.

A group that offers motivation and support.

New Classes Forming:

**Thursday, April 30th at 6:30 pm**

This program is partially funded by a grant - cost to participants is \$50.00 per person.

Contact Jennifer Cebry at  
(203) 270 – 4327 to register or if you have any questions.



## DAILY PROGRAMS

### MONDAY

9:00 Flex Fit & Tone  
10:00 Pop-up Video Exercise  
10:00 Cards  
10:00 Crafting Crew  
10:00 Italian Lessons  
11:00 Women's Discussion  
12:00 Lunch  
1:00 Yoga  
2:00 Ping Pong Group

### TUESDAY

9:00 Morning Meditation  
10:00 Cards  
10:00 Art  
10:15 Chair Pilates  
10:30 Current Events/Hot Topics  
12:00 Lunch  
12:30 Canasta  
1:00 Chair Yoga  
1:00 Poker  
2:15 Tai Chi/Qi Gong

### WEDNESDAY

9:30 Zumba Gold  
10:00 Cards  
10:30 French Lessons  
10:45 Fitness Fury  
11:30 Crafting Crew  
12:00 Lunch  
12:30 Mah Jong  
1:00 Yoga  
2:15 Broadway Burn  
3:00 Technology Trouble Shooting

### THURSDAY

10:00 Cards  
10:30 Spanish Lessons  
12:00 Lunch  
1:00 Chair Yoga  
2:30 Strength Training  
3:00 Password  
3:00 Shuffleboard

### FRIDAY

9:30 Fitness Fury  
10:00 Cards  
10:30 Pop-up Video Exercise  
10:30 Quilting/Sewing  
12:00 Knitting/Crochet  
1:00 Canasta  
1:30 Line/Country Dancing

# EXERCISE HEALTH FITNESS

## Flex, Fit and Tone w/Claudia

**Monday at 9:00 am**

This is a conditioning class using your weights, bands and balls to strengthen and stretch your entire body.

## Yoga w/Eileen

**Monday and Wednesday at 1:00 pm**

Focus on stretching, strengthening, breathing and listening to your body in a peaceful state.

## Chair Yoga w/Eileen

**Tuesday and Thursday at 1:00 pm**

This is a great class and is geared for those who have knee and/or hip limitations. Helps with flexibility, strength and balance. Ends with meditation. You'll feel fabulous!

## Morning Meditation w/Claudia

**Tuesday at 9:00-10:00 am**

This is a great way to start the day. Meditation can reduce stress, helps cardiovascular & immune health, improves concentration, slows aging, increases happiness, health & self awareness. There are many ways to meditate.

## Chair Pilates w/Claudia

**Tuesday at 10:15 am**

Chair based fitness program which improves balance, and posture. Works spinal flexion, extension and side banding through different stretching positions. Increases strength and improves mood and energy with the fun and invigorating movements.

## Tai Chi/Qi Gong w/Audra

**Tuesday at 2:15 pm**

This class encourages balance, subtle flexibility, body awareness, improving stress reduction, balance and agility is the focus.

## Zumba Gold w/Naida

**Wednesday at 9:30 am**

The design of the class introduces easy-to-follow Zumba choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion and coordination. Come ready to sweat, and prepare to leave empowered and feeling strong.

## Fitness Fury w/Chris

**Wednesday at 10:45 am &  
Fridays at 9:30 am**

This program's purpose is to bring uniquely designed energetic fitness programs to individuals while creating social interactions that will build healthy lifestyle changes.

## Broadway Burn w/Matthew

**Wednesday at 2:15 pm**

Fun and heart-pounding cardio stretch class that incorporates Broadway jazz and musical theater patterns in an easy to follow work out set to your favorite show tunes from Television, Movies, and of course Broadway. This class is geared to seniors and includes chair work to achieve the same muscle activation without the need to stabilize as much and to create an even lower impact class.

## Strength Training w/Claudia

**Thursday at 2:30 pm**

Come strengthen, shape and tone your whole body! Receive the individual attention that will help improve your ability to perform daily activities. You will learn proper form and technique when using handheld weights, bands, and balls. See improvement in your flexibility, balance, and posture as well. Weighted balls supplied by teacher.

## Line/Country Dancing w/Jill

**Friday at 1:30 pm**

Line dance is a choreographed dance with a repeated sequence of steps in which a group of people dance in one or more lines or rows, and executing the steps at the same time.

## Pop-up Video Exercise

**Mondays at 10:00 am & Fridays at 10:30 am**

The new TV is up and running in the Health and Wellness Room! We now have access to thousands of different exercise routines. Each week a new video will be played on the TV to offer a wider variety of different types of exercises - feel free to offer suggestions!

# SERVICES & INFORMATION

## **SweetHART Bus Telephone Numbers:**

For reservations (203) 748-2511

Cancellations/Confirmation (203) 830-4399

Comments/questions (203) 744-4070

## **Fish Medical Drivers**

Transportation for medical appointments.

Monday-Thursday from 9:00-2:00pm.

Ambulatory disabled and/or seniors may call 1-800-794-0034.

## **Newtown Meals on Wheels**

Nutritional meals (regular and special) are delivered at reasonable cost. To inquire about becoming a meal recipient call Marilyn at 203-426-6340 or Janet at 203-270-1960.

## **Lunch Program**

The Newtown Senior Center hosts a congregate meal program Monday through Thursday (no meal served on Friday). A \$3.00 donation is encouraged. Call to reserve your meal at least 3 days in advance at (203) 270-4310. Great menus! You can pick up a registration form and menu at the front desk. Menus will be sent out via Constant Contact and posted on the Senior Center website.

## **Municipal Agent for the Elderly**

(203) 270-4330

## **FONS**

The mission of the Friends of Newtown Seniors is to provide advocacy and services to Newtown Seniors. This will be accomplished in two complementary ways: through new initiatives conceived and developed by its board of directors and by partnering with various non-profit, for profit, governmental, political and religious organizations serving the Newtown Senior population. FONS meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 4:00 pm. For more information please visit [friendsofnewtownseniors.org](http://friendsofnewtownseniors.org)

## **F.A.I.T.H Food Pantry**

Located at 46 Church Hill Road (behind St Rose of Lima Church sanctuary) The pantry is available to help residents with food and toiletries. Pantry is open Tuesday mornings 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and Thurs 6-7:30pm. Donations to the Pantry can also be made at these times, and at locations around town. For more information: 203-426-5604.

The Food Pantry is available to low-income families living in Newtown. All items are donated and collected through various food drives. Items always needed: soup, canned fruit, rice, tomato products, cereal, peanut butter/jelly, personal products, cat/dog food.

For more details please go to: <http://www.newtownfoodpantry.org/>

## **Newtown Chore Services**

Friends of Newtown Seniors (FONS) Chore Services is a service to support Newtown Seniors with the ability to remain in their own home safely, independently, and comfortably. FONS volunteers can assist with numerous chores including the replacement of batteries in fire/CO Detectors, installing/removal of window air conditioner units, changing window/door screens, repair loose and unstable furniture/fixtures, light landscaping, and even help you organize your living space. Allowing you to remain in your home safe and secure. Clients can make a donation to FONS for these services according to their income. Suggested donations per hour range from \$6.50-\$16.50 per hour. For larger, more complex jobs Chore Service maintains a list of vetted, highly recommended professionals, vendors known to be reliable that can assist with electrical, plumbing, carpentry, home remodeling and landscaping, just to name a few. Fees for these services are based on the individual contractor and not considered volunteer services. Don't let small issues go until they become large problems.

Call today: Bev Bennett Schaedler, Coordinator 203-430-0633  
[fonschoreservices@gmail.com](mailto:fonschoreservices@gmail.com)

# SERVICES & INFORMATION Continued...

## **AARP Driver Safety Program**

**2020 Dates: March 13th, June 12th, August 14th & October 19th at 12:30-4:30pm**

This is a refresher course geared especially to your safety needs. Learn defensive driving techniques and to adjust your driving to age-related vision, hearing and reaction changes with up to date advances in car safety and features specifically available for older drivers. AARP has completely revamped this four hour class with new videos and workbooks taught by certified instructors. The course is fully supported by the State of CT and offers the same insurance benefits. The fee for the new course is payable the day of by check made out to AARP \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Call to sign up 203-270-4310 to reserve a seat.

## **Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging**

Get Your Medicare Questions Answered The Western Connecticut Area on Aging provides FREE UNBIASED information on Medicare, and the options that supplement Medicare. The WCAAA can answer questions that you may have on Medicare, Medicare the Prescription drug-benefit, Medicaid, Preventative Benefits, Care Giving issues and more. The WCAAA can assist in filling out applications for different programs you may be eligible. For more information please call Western CT Area on Aging at 1-800-994-9422 or 1-203-757-5449.

## **Choices**

Area Agency on Aging 1-800-994-9422. Get answers to any Medicare issues or questions you may have—FREE.

## **A Brush with Kindness**

A Brush with Kindness is Housatonic Habitat's low-cost home repair and painting services. Eligibility Requirements, must be 60 years or older; except if Social Security Disabled (SSDI); must be the homeowner. This program is not for renters. Income level should not exceed \$2,600 per month. Excluding home equity, asset level cannot exceed \$50,000. Contact Social Services (203) 270-4330.

## **Energy Assistance Applications**

Connecticut residents struggling to pay their utility bills can apply for home heating assistance at their local Community Action Agency (CAA). Community Action Agencies are the only nonprofit agencies administering the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), a federal program (administered by the CT Department of Social Services) that provides home heating assistance. Homeowners and/or renters may apply, and funds may be used to pay for whatever source of heating residents have in their homes. This includes wood, electric, oil, kerosene, or natural gas.

CAAs will certify oil deliveries for those who heat with oil, propane, and deliverable fuels.

Residents can call Social Services at 203-270-4330 to request an appointment to complete the application and confirm required documentation they will need to bring.

Ends May 1, 2020.

# SERVICES & INFORMATION Continued...

## AARP INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE FOR TAX YEAR 2019

**February 3rd to April 6th, Every Monday from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. By Appointment Only**

Free of charge for low and middle-income taxpayers! If married, both spouses should be present. You must stop in to the Senior Center at least one week before your appointment to pick up the new AARP consent forms. The AARP consent forms must be filled out and signed before your scheduled appointment. Newtown residents will have scheduling priority.

Note: If taxpayer(s) expects to itemize deductions, we recommend scheduling appointments after Mid-February 2020 to allow time for recent tax legislation updates to be incorporated into the program and to ensure you have received all your tax forms from financial institutions.

### WHAT TO BRING TO A COUNSELING SESSION

Please review the guidelines that are listed below regarding what you should bring to your scheduled appointment.

#### Personal Items:

- If married, both husband and wife should be present. Proof of identity (picture or other documentation) is required for both spouses. Social security number (Social Security Card or Benefit statement - Form SSA-1099) for taxpayer and all dependents.
- Copy of last year's Federal and State tax returns.
- Personal check with bank checking account & routing number. Note that personal check is required only if you are receiving a refund and would like it to be direct deposited to your account.

#### Income Items:

- W-2 Wage & Tax Statement form from each employer for all taxpayers.
- W-2G Certain Gambling Winnings forms.
- Unemployment compensation statements. SSA-1099 Social Security / RRB-1099 Railroad Retirement payments forms.
- All 1099 forms reporting interest (1099-INT), dividends (1099-DIV), proceeds from sales (1099-B) as well as purchase price (cost basis) of sold assets.
- 1099-R forms reporting pension & annuity income and IRA distributions.
- 1099-Misc form reporting any miscellaneous income.

#### Deductions and Credit Items:

- Taxpayers that choose to itemize their deductions should bring:
- Form 1098 Home Mortgage Interest (this form may also provide Real Estate Taxes paid information)
- Real estate and personal property (vehicle) taxes you paid in 2019 (please bring this information even if you don't intend to itemize)
- Contributions to charity documentation State income tax refund documentation (if you itemized deductions in 2018)
- Health / dental insurance including Medicare B and D payments (on SSA-1099).
- Qualified out-of-pocket medical expenses.
- Capital loss carryover from prior years
- Child and dependent care provider expenses. Qualified education expenses. Residential energy credit expenses
- Quarterly estimated federal and state taxes paid & prior year's refund applied

*Please arrive at the senior center at least 15 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment time. Please note that your tax returns may not be able to be completed and filed if you arrive late for your appointment or if you fail to bring all the required forms and documentation. Appointments will not be rescheduled.*

**Please call (203) 270-4310 to schedule your appointment.**

# WEEKLY PROGRAMMING

## CRAFTING CREW

**Mondays 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**Wednesdays 11:30 am - 1:00 pm**

Come join the fun and create amazing crafts. The crew is looking for crafters, no skills necessary.

## ITALIAN LESSONS

**Mondays 10:00 am - 11:00 am**

Taught by Isabel Cymerman, learn to speak Italian! For beginners, no experience necessary. Easy to learn and lots of fun (and there is no homework!) You may even learn a song or two! Register at the front desk.

## CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL

**Mondays 11:00 am**

Women's Discussions Group - come and discuss recipes, family traditions, women's issues. Come and share your story.

## PING PONG PLAYERS GROUP

**Mondays 2:00 pm**

Those of us who currently love to play, would like to teach anyone who'd like to try it for the first time, to give VERY informal, NON-competitive, gentle instruction. Our playing pace is slow and gentle, so you'll do just fine! All are welcome!

## CURRENT EVENTS AND HOT TOPICS

**Tuesdays 10:30 am**

At a "round table" for discussion on current events or your favorite hot topic.

## ART CLASS

**Tuesdays 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Find your inner artist! Students of all skill levels are welcome. Watercolors, acrylics, oil paint, pastels, colored pencils, watercolor pencils will be provided. Come and discover your media of choice or continue to work with your favorite in a relaxed and sociable environment. Taught by Lynn Welsh.

## CANASTA \*NEW\*

**Tuesdays 12:30 pm - 4:00 pm**

This is not a learning program - a group is already established. We welcome more groups to join.

## MEN & WOMEN'S POKER GROUP

**Tuesdays 1:00 pm**

Enjoy the game of Poker with a wonderful group. Game starts promptly at 1:00 pm - please arrive early to determine teams prior to starting.

## TECHNOLOGY TROUBLESHOOTING

**Wednesdays 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

Join Zack with any technology questions or issues you have.

## MAH JONG

**Wednesdays 12:30 pm**

Similar to the card game rummy, Mahjong is a game of skill, strategy, and calculation and involves a degree of chance. Group has already been established - we welcome new groups to come join us each week!

## FRENCH LESSONS

**Wednesdays 10:30 am - 11:30 pm**

Taught by Virginia Berg come explore the French language with us! We will focus on speaking, reading, listening and even writing.

## CHESS \*NEW\*

Please sign up at the Front Desk if you are interested in playing Chess. Date and time TBD.

## SPANISH LESSONS

**Thursdays 10:30 am - 11:30 am**

Taught by Louise Zierow Learn Spanish with us! Classes resume January 2nd. New members invited. Sign up at the front desk.

## SHUFFLEBOARD \*NEW\*

**Thursdays 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

Come and enjoy a great game played in our hallway.

## KNITTING GROUP WITH JANE

**Fridays 12:00 pm**

Over 10 wonderful women join together each Friday for the past 30 years. Come and be a part of the group.

## POETRY \*NEW\*

Please sign up at the Front Desk if you are interested in poetry. Date and time TBD.

# MONTHLY PROGRAMMING

## WESTERN CT PARKINSON GROUP

The group will meet the first Wednesday of the month at 1:30 pm. People with Parkinson's, family members, caregivers and anyone interested in learning about Parkinson Disease is welcome. Next meetings: **March 4th and April 1st.**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS!

Celebrate our members' birthdays. There will be cake served after lunch at 12:30 pm. The celebrations will take place **March 26th**, followed by **April 23rd**. Help us wish our March and April birthdays a great year ahead! Please call the front desk if you have a January or February birthday to let us you would like to be recognized.

## BOOK CLUB

Meets every second Wednesday of the month at 3:00 pm

**March 11th** - *Digging to America* by Anne Tyler

**April 8th** - *Indelible* by Karin Slaughter

**May 13th** - *See You in the Piazza (New Places to Discover in Italy)* by Frances Mayes.

**June 10th** - *No Ordinary Time (Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Homefront in World War II)* by Doris Kearns Goodwin

## MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

Meets the 1st Thursday of the month at 9:00 am What a nice way to start your day with coffee/tea and egg sandwiches, mixed with meeting new and old friends. \$2.00 donation suggested. Upcoming dates:

**March 5th and April 2nd.** Please call the front desk to reserve your spot and order your breakfast sandwich.

## COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

On the third Friday of the month, our First Selectman Daniel C. Rosenthal will join us for coffee and conversation from 10:00 am - 11:00 am. Upcoming dates: **March 20th and April 17th.**

## BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

2nd Thursday of each month at 1:30 pm by Bethel VNA and 4th Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm by Western CT Area on Aging. Upcoming dates: **March 12th, March 25th, April 9th and April 22nd.**

## ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

**\*Limit 15 Participants\***

The Alzheimer's Association of CT, in collaboration with The Newtown Senior Center, Maplewood at Newtown and Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care, welcomes those who are impacted by Alzheimer's Disease or other dementia to attend a monthly support group at the Newtown Senior Center.

Caregiver support groups promote an open forum of sharing and discussion among people facing many of the same issues. Our support groups are FREE and led by trained group facilitators, completely confidential and held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month between 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm. Next meetings: **March 18th and April 15th.**

## SOCIAL SERVICES

Newtown Social Services will be coming to our Senior Center the first Friday of the month from 10:00 am - 11:00 am to assist members with applications for upcoming assistance programs. Walk-ins are welcome. Upcoming dates: **March 6th and April 3rd.**

## MOVIES

***Under the Tuscan Sun* - March 30th at 1:00 pm**

Frances Mayes is a San Francisco-based literature professor, literary reviewer and author, who is struggling in writing her latest book. Her outwardly perfect and stable life takes an unexpected turn when her husband files for divorce. He wants to marry the woman with whom he is having an affair. Frances supported her husband financially as he was writing his own book, and he sues her for alimony despite her financial difficulties.

***Izzy and Moe* - April 27th at 1:00 pm**

During the Prohibition era of the 1920s, a gangster named John Vanderhoff, alias "The Dutchman", was killing off the competition and setting up his own speakeasys. To fight the crime, the Prohibition Bureau needed to get some extra men. Izzy Einstein (Jackie Gleason) volunteers; he is desperate to have a steady paycheck to support his wife, mother-in-law and four daughters. Einstein wants to disprove his mother-in-law's claim that he is just a "bum".

## INTERGENERATIONAL READING PROGRAM

Senior Center members are welcomed to the Children's Adventure Center to read to preschool children. Bring your favorite children's story or borrow a book from the CAC's library. The children have been asking for us! Sign up at the front desk. Readers are responsible for their own transportation to CAC. Upcoming dates: **March 19th and April 16th at 10:00 am**



# TOURS

## GETAWAY/FRIENDSHIP TOURS

Please come in and browse the book of trips to see what they provide.

## TOURS WITH JUDY

### Submarine Force Museum - Home of Historic Ship Nautilus... March 19th

We will depart from the Senior Center at 9:00 am. Fee is \$20 per person. The Submarine Force Museum, located on the Thames River in Groton, Connecticut, maintains the world's finest collection of submarine artifacts. It is the only submarine museum operated by the United States Navy, and as such is the primary repository for artifacts, documents and photographs relating to U.S. Submarine Force history. The museum traces the development of the "Silent Service" from David Bushnell's Turtle, used in the Revolutionary War, to the Ohio and Virginia class submarines. Originally established as "The Submarine Library" by Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation in 1955, the Submarine Force Library and Museum soon gained respect for its archival and research value. In April 1964, the entire collection was donated to the Navy and relocated to the Naval Submarine Base, New London, Groton, Connecticut. The name "Submarine Force Library and Museum" was officially adopted in 1969. The museum's collections include more than 33,000 artifacts, 20,000 significant documents and 30,000 photographs. With so many holdings, the displays change frequently and a return visit will be a new experience. The 6,000 volume reference and research library is a world-renowned collection relative to the history of U.S. submarines and is open to anyone looking for information on submarines or submarine history. Lunch at Groton Townhouse to follow. **A lot of walking and steps involved.**

### Culinary Institute of America... April 15th

Leave from the Senior Center at 8:00 am. Fee is \$70.00 per person. Tour at 10:30 lunch will be at 11:30 at Bocuse Restaurant. Drinks not included. Explore the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park Overlooking the Hudson River, the CIA's main campus in Hyde Park, NY, is one of the best incubators in the world for leading culinary professionals. Our students, faculty, and staff share a deep passion for all things food. In addition, we're only a short drive from New York City—home to some of the world's most renowned restaurants, theaters, hotels, chefs, and other culinary and hospitality venues. Menu will be out in April.

### Tour in Town with a Tour Guide... April 29th

We will leave at 10:30 am. Fee is \$25.00 per person - lunch is included. Tour the C.H Booth Library - receive all of our towns history, then off to lunch at Sal & Pepe's.

### The New England Air Museum... April 30th

Leave at 8:45 am. Tour is at 10:30 am. Fee is \$35.00 per person

The New England Air Museum's collection contains over 100 aircraft ranging from early flying machines to supersonic jets. Over 55 aircraft are on display in three large exhibit hangars and in an outdoor display area (open depending on weather) while other are in storage restoration hangars. Then off to lunch at The Tunxis Grill & Pizzeria. **A lot of walking involved.**

### Important Information

Tours with Judy will need a minimum of 7 participants unless otherwise specified. Please arrive 15 minutes before the bus is scheduled to leave. Payment is required when you sign up. Due to trips being paid in advance all cancellations must be made one week prior to trip date for a refund. A refund can be made, however, if the spot can be filled and paid for by a member on the trip's waiting list. Non-members are welcome to join us on trips, however current Newtown Senior Center members have priority for trip reservations.

# SPEAKERS

**PLEASE SIGN UP AT THE FRONT DESK TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT.**

## **City Nature Challenge With Jenny Hubbard... March 10th at 11:00 am**

The Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary has joined forces with the Maritime Aquarium and Beardsley Zoo in bringing the City Nature Challenge to Newtown and now they need your help. Join Jenny Hubbard on March 10th at 11:00 am to learn about this important initiative and the opportunity it offers you to outdoors, get involved and learn from some of the area's leading horticulturalists and environmental scholars.

## **Western CT Area on Aging "Tech knowledge"... March 12th at 10:30 am**

The WCAAA Tech Act program The Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act (P.L. 100-407) was first passed in 1988, reauthorized in 1994 (P.L. 103-218) and again in 1998 (P.L. 105-394). It was designated as a system change grant and is often called the "Tech Act" for short. The State shall directly, or through referrals, provide to individuals, to the extent practicable, comprehensive information about State and Local Assistive Technology vendors, providers and repair services.

## **Fire Prevention With Our Fire Marshal... March 17th at 10:30 am**

This presentation will be on fire safety and the most common causes of accidental fires in the home. Presented by our Deputy Fire Marshal.

## **Census Information Session... March 24th from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

Please join us for an informative presentation about the 2020 US Census! To help your community thrive, it's important that everyone participates in the 2020 Census. The Census is safe, easy and important! Come and learn what types of questions will be asked, all the ways you can easily fill out your Census, as well as how to avoid fraud and how your information is kept safe.

## **Spectacular Scotland: Kilts, Bagpipes & Castles With Lia Levitt... March 25th at 1:00 pm**

Scotland has castles galore as well as well as dogs who herd sheep. We will set out to find the Loch Ness Monster and travel through spectacular scenery from battlefield to the Highlands to a whisky distillery. Light refreshments will be sponsored by The Watermark.

## **Eversource Home Energy Assessment... March 31st at 11:00 am**

Whether you own or rent, keep your home comfortable while saving energy and money with a Home Energy Assessment. Eversource's Home Energy Assessment is here to connect you to solutions for saving crafted specifically for your home, including money-saving incentives/rebates, expert home improvement advice and energy saving tips. Learn more about the Home Energy Solutions program on March 31st at 11:00 right here at the Newtown Senior Center with Tasha Perreault, Energy Efficiency Consultant.

## **Hoarding... April 2nd at 1:00 pm**

Compulsive hoarding, also known as hoarding disorder, is a behavioral pattern characterized by excessive acquisition of and an inability or unwillingness to discard large quantities of objects that cover the living areas of the home and cause significant distress or impairment. Sponsored by Candlewood Valley, Mellisa Marici. Assorted desserts and refreshments will be provided.



# SPEAKERS Continued...

**PLEASE SIGN UP AT THE FRONT DESK TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT.**

## **The Secret to Flawless Wig Wearing... April 6th at 1:00 pm**

The owner from Danielle Elizabeth Wigs in Ridgefield knows firsthand on how traumatizing hair loss can be to any person experiencing it. As a cancer survivor of two different types of unrelated Lymphomas, Danielle went through extensive chemotherapy which resulted in temporary hair loss. If you are battling cancer or alopecia or are experiencing natural hair loss. Perhaps you are being treated with chemotherapy which unfortunately can result in medical hair loss? We can help promote and boost self-esteem by providing the best quality wigs and toppers and hair services to you. As you probably know by now, hair loss due to chemotherapy should be anticipated and we are here to help you put a plan into action to help you with this medical hair loss process. Losing hair is something we all fear but having a plan beforehand will certainly reduce your stress and anxiety and cause less of an impact to your self-esteem. We offer the finest, high quality human hair wigs and synthetic hair wigs, hair pieces, toppers and hair extensions available. Here at our Ridgefield Wig Shop, we help women regain their confidence and self esteem by restoring the hair they want or getting back the hair they may have lost. Let's chat and create a hair loss solution for you or your loved one.

## **Preventions of UTIs... April 8th at 1:00 pm**

Did you know that more than 10% of women over age 65 report having a Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) and the number goes up to 30% by 85? Men get UTIs as they age. Nancy the Nurse Practitioner will empower you with information to reduce you or your loved one of the risk of getting a UTI.

## **The Do's and Don't's of Shampoo... April 9th at 10:30 am**

The typical reason of using shampoo is to remove the unwanted build-up of sebum in the hair without stripping out so much as to make hair unmanageable. Shampoo is generally made by combining one or more anionic surfactants, such as sodium lauryl sulfate or sodium laureth sulfate, with a co-surfactant, most often the amphoteric surfactant cocamidopropyl betaine in water. The surfactant mix forms a complex micellar structure that helps to trap oil and grease.. Come with any questions you may have.

## **SweetHART Bus... April 14th at 1:00 pm**

SweetHART provides transportation services for Seniors and Persons with a Disability. There are several SweetHART options: Dial-A-Ride Dial-A-Ride is a door-to-door transportation service for seniors age 65 or older and persons of any age with a mobility disability. Dial-A-Ride service is available in Danbury, Bethel, Brookfield, New Fairfield, Newtown and Ridgefield. Service policies and availability varies by town. Half Fare Half Fare is available to Seniors and Persons with a Disability. Just fill out an application for a SweetHART ID card and you can ride City Bus at half the cost. ADA Paratransit ADA Paratransit is a door-to-door transportation service for individuals of any age with a physical or cognitive disability that prevents them from using City Bus. Trips that qualify as ADA Paratransit must have origins and destinations that are within the ADA service area, typically 3/4 of a mile of the City Bus system, and occur within the same hours of operation. ADA Paratransit service is available in Danbury, Bethel, Brookfield and New Milford.

# SPEAKERS

Continued...

**PLEASE SIGN UP AT THE FRONT DESK TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT.**

## **State of CT Consumer Protection... April 16th at 1:00 pm**

State of CT's Department of Consumer Protection is responsible for and how to identify common scams and fraud. Some of the Complaints our Agency DOES Handle: Home improvement contractor; new home construction; professionals, trades people or contractors that should be licensed or registered with DCP; real estate agents, brokers and appraisers; frauds, scams, misrepresentations or misleading advertisements; prescription errors; gasoline and heating fuel issues; packaged, manufactured food or bakery items; Connecticut-based telemarketers and internet retailers.

## **A Day in the Life of a Solider in Iraq... April 23rd at 1:00 pm**

Marc Youngquist will come and speak about his story. Master Sergeant Marc Youngquist has served for over 40 years in the military and law enforcement. Over those years, he has met many unsung American heroes. These are men and women who have served our country with limited resources and support while being separated from friends and loved ones for months at a time, often while living in hostile environments. When they return home, these soldiers do their best to pick up where they left off, resuming their lives, never sharing the details of their heroic acts because it's all part of the job. Even close friends and (especially) their families never hear about the danger they were in or the lives they impacted, despite the heroism of their acts.

## **Baseball Talk With Rich Marazzi... April 28th at 1:00 pm**

Rich Marazzi is the rules consultant/analyst for 16 different major league teams, including the Yankees and Red Sox. An author of seven books, he is also the rules consultant for ESPN and FOX Regional Sports TV.

## **Veterans Services With Hartford Health Care... April 30th at 10:00 am**

Raymond G. Baldwin Jr., the Veteran's Liason for Hartford Health Care at Home (HHCH), will do a presentation on some of the benefits available through HHCH and the Veteran's Administration. He will also touch briefly on some new Federal laws that could affect Veterans who served during the Vietnam War. He will be available after the presentation to speak with anyone who has a specific question or problem. Mr. Baldwin is a US Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran and an attorney. Raymond Baldwin Jr 203-650-4208.

# LUNCH AND LEARNS

Please sign up for the weekly meal program and Friday Lunch and Learns at least one week in advance. Accurate numbers are necessary in order to ensure enough food is ordered and everyone can be accommodated.

## **The Importance of Stretching... March 6th at 12:00 pm**

Health PRO Therapy Heritage will present The Importance of Stretching. Stretching is important to keep muscles flexible, strong, and healthy. Stretching decreases stress, reduces pain and stiffness, improves range of motion and muscular function, reduces risk of injury, enhances performance, improves blood flow/circulation, minimizes wear and tear on joints, and improves overall quality of life. Healthy muscles also assist with maintaining good balance to avoid falls. When stretching is not practiced, as specific muscles are needed to perform an activity, they perform weaker than normal and are unable to extend to their full capacity. This can put one at risk for joint pain, muscle strains and, in some cases, muscle damage. Lunch provided by Church Hill Village.

## **Young at Heart Happiness... March 13th at 12:00 pm**

Happiness is an "Inside Job"! Presentation on the benefits of happiness well being. Happiness has been correlated with better health, both in individuals and communities. Some studies have even suggested that states of happiness may be associated with lower stress-related hormones and better immune function. Data shows that positive mood, optimism and humor are linked to better health and well-being. Lunch will consist of salad, a chicken dish and dessert.

## **Newtown Saving Bank Smart Money Scams... March 20th at 12:00 pm**

Phil Lukianuk, Market Manager for Newtown Savings Bank, will present Smart Money For Older Adults, a 1-hour seminar designed to help older adults prevent financial exploitation by understanding many of today's common money scams.

## **Stem Cell with Dr Geoffrion... March 27th at 12:00 pm**

Stem-cell therapy is the use of stem cells to treat or prevent a disease or condition. Bone marrow transplant is the most widely used stem-cell therapy, but some therapies derived from umbilical cord blood are also in use.

## **Essential Oil Making... April 3rd at 12:00 pm**

Make your own oils with Church Hill Village's Mary Delorenzo. Citrus oils - for spring and the benefits of cleaning with lemon oil. Come and make some oils for a new scent to add to your perfume collection.

## **Aging in Place with Tracy Brady... April 17th at 12:00 pm**

Visiting Angels and Bethel Health Care will host a presentation about Aging in Place – What it means to me and my family. Aging in place is when a person lives and ages in their residence of choice, for as long as they are able to. Aging in place includes having services, care and needed support in the residence as well. These needs may change over time and as the individual ages. Join us for this informative discussion to assist you and your family as you age in place.

# LUNCH AND LEARNS Continued...

Please sign up for the weekly meal program and Friday Lunch and Learns at least one week in advance. Accurate numbers are necessary in order to ensure enough food is ordered and everyone can be accommodated.

## Protect Yourself With Trusts... April 24th at 12:00 pm

Asset protection trusts and revocable living trusts - Avoid running out of funds and preserve your independence. Come hear a discussion on the urgent questions facing every senior today:

- How can an Asset Protection Trust protect assets from long term care?
- How can a Revocable Living Trust avoid Probate?
- Is an Asset Protection Trust or Revocable Living Trust better for me?
- How do Trusts protect assets if a child of mine gets divorced or sued?

Concerned about a large future spend-down? Come learn how to use Trusts to avoid the cost of long term care, and reduce estate and capital gains taxes, while protecting your assets. Trusts keep you in control. Trusts give you protection and control. You say what goes in, what comes out, and who does what. Danbury attorneys Thomas E. Murphy and Michele F. Murphy RN MSN have been practicing Elder Law, Estate Planning and Probate law for over 50 years combined. Let them show you the safe way to protect your life's savings! Lunch provided by Village Crest, Bethel Health Care & Cascades Assisted Living.



# SPECIAL EVENTS

**PLEASE SIGN UP AT THE FRONT DESK TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT.**

## **Life Mosaic: Looking to the Future with 2020 Hindsight**

All paid for by a grant to FONS from The Connecticut Economic and Community Development Office of the Arts.

Taking place in two parts: Phase 1: Participants will discuss what is important in their lives, what memories they have, and what they are most proud of etc. The end product from the four sessions will be written prose telling the story that each person wants to tell. Kate Katcher of Stray Kats Theatre take what everyone shares and she will turn into written prose. Writing portion will take place **March 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.**

Phase 2 will be done by mosaic artist Joanne Hunter who will lead the project to create the mural. The goal will be to communicate these stories in color and patterns in a 12X12 inch mosaic done by each participant. The final product will be an integrated piece roughly 4X5. Mosaic work will take place **March 30th, April 1st and April 3rd from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm.**

## **Saint Patrick's Day Bingo Lunch... March 17th at 12:00 pm**

Don't forget to sign up for lunch with our meal site CW Resources for your St. Patty's Day lunch to follow with bingo with desserts. Bingo will be called by our First Selectman.

## **PEAC (Parent Educator Advisory Council)... March 19th at 10:00 am**

Students from Newtown Schools will visit the Senior Center and share ideas, games, presentations, and more.

## **Gentle Stretching & Exercise... March 19th at 11:00 am**

Brought to you in conjunction with the Cyrenius H. Booth Library, participants will learn about the health benefits of stretching and exercise that can be easily incorporated into a daily routine. Taught by Jill Patterson, RDN registered dietitian nutritionist, and certified fitness instructor and personal trainer. Exercises and stretching will be integrated into this 45 – 60 minute presentation.

## **The Census is Coming!... April 1, 2020 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

Every ten years the U.S. Census Bureau conducts a census of the population of the United States. Did you know that the results of the 2020 Census will inform decisions about allocating hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding to communities across the country - for hospitals, fire departments, libraries, senior centers, school lunch programs, and other critical programs and services? The Newtown Senior Center and Community Center wants to help you fill out your census online. Please join us as we open up our tablets for your use. We will have volunteers on hand to walk you through the Census survey to help you complete the form.

## **Crafts With Grandkids... April 13th at 1:00 pm**

Come and make a spring craft with your caregiver! Refreshments will be provided.



# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

## THE BETTER DAY CAFE

The biggest and tastiest cookies can be found at the Better Day Cafe right here in Newtown! If you haven't tried one you are in for a special treat. Not only does the Cafe have a daily assortment of freshly baked sweet treats, there are daily lunch selections such as quiche, hummus cups, soups, salads and pasta dishes as well as hot coffee and a selection of teas. They also make and sell all natural dog biscuits with peanut butter and pumpkin, for \$5 per pound. The Better Day Cafe is located inside the Newtown Community Center. It is run by students in the Newtown Community Partnerships (NCP) program, which is the transition program for students aged 18-21 who have a disability. These students have finished their academic work and move on to NCP to learn vocational and independent living skills. Most students work at a job site in the community and at the Better Day Cafe. When you visit the Cafe you will find students working all of the jobs to keep the Cafe running. Students are responsible for cleaning, baking, keeping track of inventory, and waiting on customers all while providing excellent customer service. Most students are supported by a NCP job coach and are encouraged to become as independent as possible. Jessica Viesto, who is in her first year at NCP, says her favorite job site at the Cafe is working at the front register. Jessie said, "I like working at the cash register because I like working with money and talking to customers. It makes me happy when I see customers come back again." Hot chocolate and the giant chocolate chip cookies are her favorite treats.

Johnny Nowacki, who will be leaving NCP at the end of the school year, says he likes working in the kitchen best. He enjoys baking, especially making the cranberry orange muffins, and he likes meeting new people who come to the Cafe. Johnny's dog, Mojo, is a huge fan of the Better Day dog biscuits!

The Better Day Cafe is open during school hours, generally 8:30 am -1:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The Cafe's Facebook page is updated with the weekly menu and any changes in hours. Please "like" the Cafe's page at [www.facebook.com/betterdaycafenewtown](http://www.facebook.com/betterdaycafenewtown).



# SEVERE COLD WEATHER ALERT

**This is a reminder to remain vigilant about cold weather preparedness.**

Yes, it's winter and we live in New England, but we don't want anyone to suffer complications from the cold.

Newtown's First Selectman and the Emergency Management Office urge residents to be prepared for severe cold weather and ask that every resident make appropriate preparations to ensure personal safety and readiness. Also, take action to protect your pets. Please review your preparedness.

We ask that you please check on any elderly or frail neighbors to be certain they are doing OK in this weather.

**Residents are welcome at the locations listed below to seek relief from the cold:**

At Fairfield Hills:

The Municipal Center MON thru THURS from 8 am - 8 pm and FRI 8 am - 5 pm

Newtown Community Center MON thru FRI 6 am - 9 pm, SAT/SUN 7 am - 7 pm

Newtown Senior Center, MON thru FRI 9 am - 4 pm. Tel (203) 270-4310

Cyrenius Booth Library, 25 Main Street, Newtown. Tel (203) 426-4533

Hours: Mon thru Thurs – 9:30 am to 8 pm, Fri – 11 am to 5 pm; Sat 9:30 am to 5 pm

Edmond Town Hall Theatre, 45 Main Street, Newtown. Building is open from 8:00 am to 11:00 pm.

\$3 movies. Call Tel (203) 426-2475 for show listing and times.

## **Important numbers and contact information:**

If there is a Life Safety Emergency – call 911.

Connecticut's free information and referral service: call 2-1-1 or visit [www.211ct.org](http://www.211ct.org)

Power outage – call 800-286-2000

Code Red – register at Emergency Management on the Public Safety page on the Town of Newtown's website

<http://www.newtown-ct.gov/emergency-management> or call 203-270- 4370 for assistance

Smart 911 – register at Emergency Management on the Public Safety page on the Town of Newtown's website

<http://www.newtown-ct.gov/emergency-management>

Check News and Announcements on the Town website: [www.newtown-ct.gov](http://www.newtown-ct.gov). You can register there too to receive news.

First Selectman's office Tel (203) 270-4201

Emergency Management/Fire Marshal Tel (203) 270-4370

Health District Tel (203) 270-4291

Newtown Community Center (203) 270-4349

# MORE INFORMATION



## SENIOR CENTER/COA ROUND TABLE

**March 13th at 10:30 am and April 16th at 3:30 pm**

Join us for coffee and conversation with Senior Center staff and COA members. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and comments before the next COA meeting.

## COMMISSION ON AGING CONTACT INFORMATION

D- ANNA WIEDEMANN Chair 203-426-1035 annawiedemanncoa@gmail.com

D- ANNE ROTHSTEIN 203-426-2334 arothstein@aol.com

D- RUBY RYLES 203-304-9611 ruby.ryles@gmail.com

R- BARBARA BLOOM 203-648-6905 bbloom4388@aol.com

R- CURT SYMES 203-426-3288 curtsymescoa@aol.com

R- JOHN BOCCUZZI 203-364-0360 jboccuzzi@yahoo.com

U- LARRY PASSARO 203-426-1346 Passer624@aol.com

D- LEREINE FRAMPTON 203-426-3979 lereinebus@gmail.com

U- CLAIRE THEUNE 203-304-8166 ctheune@att.net

### Alternates

R- JOANNE ALBANESI 203-304-1401 jalbanesi@charter.net

U- CRIS CARVALHO 203-300-8175 4fadus@gmail.com

D- BOB EDWARDS 203-994-8719 Bob.edwards126@gmail.com

## BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NEWTOWN SENIOR CENTER!

Newtown Residents  
\$20 annual dues

Non-Residents  
\$25 annual dues

Yearly Membership is  
July 1 - June 30

Ask for more info at our  
front desk.

## REMINDERS

Only Senior Nutrition Services Staff & Volunteers are allowed in the kitchen between 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Food that is not prepared in a certified kitchen facility is not allowed.

## Holiday Closings

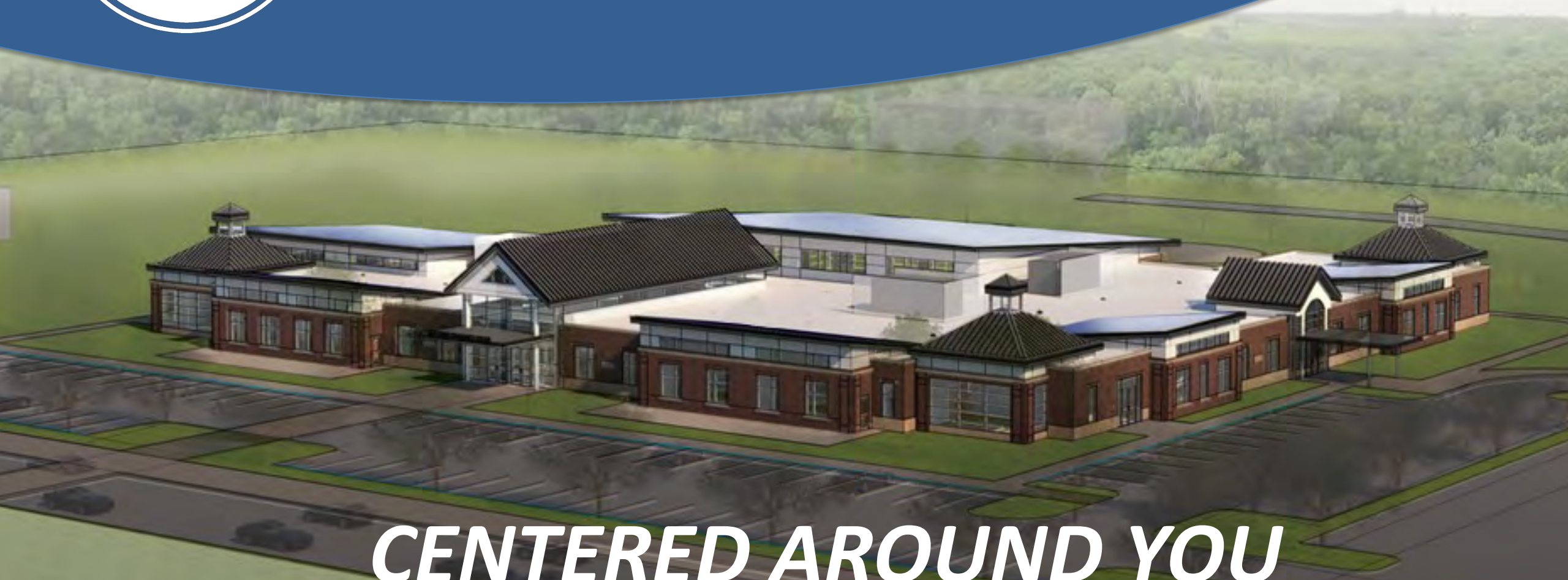
Good Friday  
April 10th





# Newtown

COMMUNITY CENTER



***CENTERED AROUND YOU***

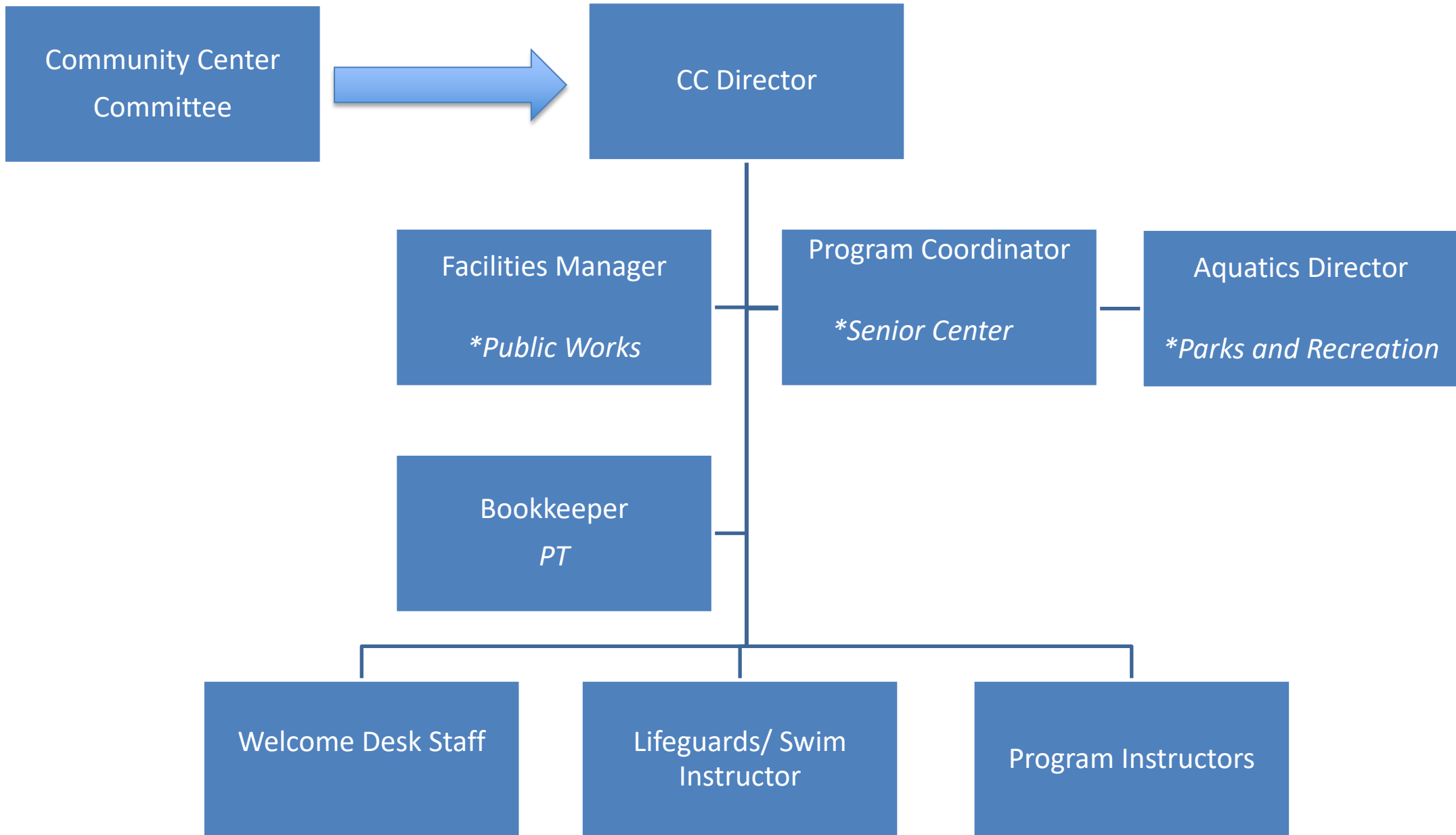
# JOIN US!

*“The Newtown Community Center is a multi-generational hub that enhances our community by promoting social interaction, health and wellness, creative opportunities and personal growth”*









Maintenance Staff is subcontracted

\*Shared Services

## Accomplishments

- Bringing the Community together as intended
- Development of the Better Day Café
- 743 Kids in Swim Lessons
- Design of Chronic Disease Programs
- 3 year (\$10,000) Partnership with Danbury Hospital
- Creation of Non-Profit Organization
- Partnership with Stew Leonard's Children's Charities (\$5,000)
- 5 year commitment from Melissa and Doug
- Developed Scholarship Assistance Program
  - \$6,799.00 in Membership Assistance
  - \$3,200 in Program Assistance

## 2020 Vision

- Distribution of Member Survey
- Creation of All Access Pass w/ P & R
- Continue to evaluate programming/capacity
- Evaluate member rates/feasibility
- Continue to address ongoing building projects/improvements
- Continue to offer free community programs
- Coordination with Edmond Town Hall and Newtown Youth Academy
- Creation of Outdoor Space
- Review & Plan for minimum wage impact by 2023

## Membership Update

5,108 Members

1,659 units

Instituted Non- Resident Joiners Fee

86% Residents, 14% Non-Residents

-Legacy Memberships

-Complimentary Memberships First Responders

-Discount Family First Responders



# Program Update

Season	Revenue Total
Summer	\$8,609.00
Fall	\$25,604.00
Late Fall	\$27,756.00
Winter	\$35,798.00
Spring (to date)	\$38,329.50



Revenues		YTD Amt								
	Orig. Budget	2018-2019	Jul2019 - Sep2019	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Total-YTD		
Federal Grants		-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
State Grants		-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Rental Income		-	5,823	2,424	3,310	2,096	3,956	17,609		
Other Grants		12,000	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000		
Charges for Programs		1,300	6,002	7,309	5,515	4,298	9,063	32,186		
Charges for Aquatic Programs		12,739	37,642	20,997	3,138	18,245	11,280	91,303		
Membership Fees		8,842	126,084	31,025	32,480	38,817	43,745	272,151		
Interest on Investments		11,150	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Misc. Revenue/Spec. Events		-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Income-Community Café		-	2,555	2,555	1,249	767	1,337	8,463		
Donations		43,220	23,506	6,115		206	575	30,402		
Donations-GE		1,000,000	-	-	-	1,000,000	-	1,000,000		
Scholarships		-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Credit Card Processing		-	(257)	-	-	-	-	(257)		
Revenues Total		1,089,251	211,355	70,425	45,692	1,064,429	69,956	1,461,857		

\*February is on track to be the largest revenue generating month (Exceeding donation) currently at 88k



[illegible]

	<b><u>BUDGET* - NEWTOWN COMMUNITY CENTER SPECIAL REVENUE FUND:</u></b>			
		2019-2020		2020-2021
	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Budget**</u></b>		<b><u>Budget</u></b>
	<b>REVENUES:</b>			
	RENTAL REVENUE	35,000		40,000
	CHARGES FOR AQUATIC PROGRAMS	150,000		150,000
	CHARGES FOR GENERAL PROGRAMS	65,000		68,000
	MEMBERSHIP FEES	430,000		423,000
	CAFÉ REVENUE	15,000		15,000
	INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS	10,000		12,000
	DONATIONS/SPECIAL EVENTS	35,000		42,000
	DONATIONS - GE	1,000,000		1,000,000
	TOTAL REVENUES	1,740,000		1,750,000
	<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>			
	SALARIES & WAGES- FULL TIME	176,000		214,000
	SALARIES & WAGES - PART TIME	286,000		239,000
	GROUP INSURANCE	65,628		42,716
	SOCIAL SECURITY CONTRIBUTIONS	35,343		28,532
	RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS	15,000		13,263
	FEES & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	30,000		3,000
	MARKETING	15,000		8,500
	WATER / SEWERAGE	20,000		35,000
	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SERVICES	25,000		21,000
	CONTRACTIAL SERVICES	33,000		70,000
	DUES, TRAVEL & EDUCATION	6,500		6,000
	COMMUNITY EVENTS	4,000		2,000
	GENERAL SUPPLIES	18,000		14,000
	POOL SUPPLIES	15,000		15,000
	PROGRAM SUPPLIES	20,000		18,000
	OFFICE SUPPLIES	6,500		6,500
	NATURAL GAS	45,000		47,000
	ENERGY ELECTRIC	45,000		88,000
	EQUIPMENT	13,000		6,000
	CAPITAL	15,000		250,000
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	888,971		1,127,511
	BUDGETED SURPLUS***	851,029		622,489
	BEGINNING FUND BALANCE AT JULY 1	913,520		1,764,549
	ENDING FUND BALANCE AT JUNE 30	1,764,549		2,387,038
	* The Newtown Community Center Special Revenue Fund is not part of the General Fund Budget. It is shown here for informational purposes.			
	** Operations started July 28th, 2019; 2019-20 revenues are actual amounts (YTD) projected forward to get an annual amount.			
	***Budgeted surplus's will effectively end after the fifth year GE grant contribution. After the fifth year there will be a significant fund balance ensuring balanced operations for many years to come.			

NEWTOWN COMMUNITY CENTER - SPECIAL REVENUE FUND				
FROM INCEPTION TO FEBRUARY 27, 2020				
			Actuals	
	REVENUES:	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 to date
	FEDERAL GRANTS	-	-	-
	STATE GRANTS	-	-	-
	RENTAL INCOME	-	-	18,259
	OTHER GRANTS	-	12,000	10,000
	CHARGES FOR PROGRAM	-	1,300	33,475
	CHARGES FOR AQUATIC PROGRAMS	-	12,739	91,413
	MEMBERSHIP FEES	-	8,842	272,805
	INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS	-	11,150	-
	MISC REVENUE	-	-	-
	INCOME-COMMUNITY CAFÉ	-	-	9,667
	DONATIONS	-	43,220	30,402
	DONATIONS - GE	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
	SCHOLARSHIPS	-	-	-
	CREDIT CARD PROCESSING	-	-	(9,497)
	TOTAL REVENUES	-	1,089,251	1,456,524
	EXPENDITURES:			
	SALARIES & WAGES- FULL TIME	6,154	101,660	137,370
	SALARIES & WAGES - PART TIME	-	4,342	119,730
	SALARIES & WAGES - SEASONAL	-	-	-
	GROUP INSURANCE	61	1,263	61,558
	SOCIAL SECURITY CONTRIBUTIONS	464	8,019	19,331
	RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS	308	4,955	6,425
	FEES & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	-	10,464	1,948
	MARKETING	-	22,338	20,329
	WATER/SEWERAGE	-	-	22,333
	REPAIR & MAINT SERVICES	-	-	5,940
	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	-	-	30,750
	DUES, TRAVEL & EDUCATION	-	623	1,878.00
	GENERAL SUPPLIES	-	9,576	4,928
	OFFICE SUPPLIES	-	1,557	5,073
	PROGRAM SUPPLIES	-	2,101	7,190
	POOL SUPPLIES	-	153	8,215
	COMMUNITY EVENTS	-	248	2,643
	ENERGY - NATURAL GAS	-	-	37,176
	ENERGY - ELECTRIC	-	-	48,532
	COMMUNITY CAFÉ	-	1,916	10,701
	EQUIPMENT	-	-	-
	CAPITAL	-	(470)	191,001
	COMMUNITY/SPECIAL EVENTS EXP.	-	-	-
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	6,987	168,744	743,051
	CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	(6,987)	920,507	713,473
	BEGINNNING FUND BALANCE	-	(6,987)	913,520
	ENDING FUND BALANCE	(6,987)	913,520	1,626,993

[illegible]



From: Sandy Roussas <[sandyroussasbof@gmail.com](mailto:sandyroussasbof@gmail.com)>

Subject: Fwd: Hello Christal, please answer budget question from BOF.....bob

Date: February 26, 2020 at 11:55:17 AM EST

To: "Alexander, Keith" <[alexanderk.bof@gmail.com](mailto:alexanderk.bof@gmail.com)>, Ned Simpson <[neds2124@gmail.com](mailto:neds2124@gmail.com)>, Christopher Gardner <[cgardner4242@gmail.com](mailto:cgardner4242@gmail.com)>, John Madzula 2nd <[jsmadzula2@gmail.com](mailto:jsmadzula2@gmail.com)>, "mattmihalcik@gmail.com" <[mattmihalcik@gmail.com](mailto:mattmihalcik@gmail.com)>, Kiley Gottschalk <[kimg11@gmail.com](mailto:kimg11@gmail.com)>

Hi everyone, below is the response to the missing last question pertaining to EDC that was submitted by the LC.

-Economic & Comm Dev:

1) Adv/Deliverables/Media/etc. from \$2950 to \$3400 – why the increase? Lists consultant as part of detail.

\* This \$450 increase will help fund increased focus on consumer marketing to raise awareness of Newtown and bring consumers to town to frequent local businesses. Examples: CT visitor centers have reopened - design and printing of marketing cards to introduce people to some of the many wonderful events and businesses/restaurants in town.

\* Funds will also allow some advertising in publications/event booklets in other towns to raise awareness of the many restaurants in town. Some restaurants have asked for a second Newtown - Sandy Hook Restaurant Week because it was successful in bringing patrons to them. Advertising is a cost effective way to raise awareness of the establishments to a broader market without the expense of a second restaurant week in one year. Sample of possible alteration to Restaurant Week logo to be used more broadly:

Current Restaurant Week Art:



Possible Art for advertising during other times of the year:



NEWTOWN | SANDY HOOK RESTAURANTS  
[www.NewtownSandyHookEats.com](http://www.NewtownSandyHookEats.com)

2) \$8000 for Marketing Plan/Branding/Web integration – paid to an external consultant:

These funds will go toward the website design that will incorporate the branding project that the Economic and Community Development Department and Economic Development Commission are currently undertaking. Today, there are three websites in addition to the town website ([newtown-ct.gov](http://newtown-ct.gov)) that are under the management of E&CD - all on different platforms. ([newtownsandyhookkeats.com](http://newtownsandyhookkeats.com), [newtown.org](http://newtown.org), [fairfieldhills.org](http://fairfieldhills.org)). This will consolidate the sites for more efficient management by the department - while presenting a brand that is representative of the image Newtown wishes to portray to attract businesses, visitors and residents. An annual cost savings is expected by having only one website (not 3) in regard to hosting, domain name...

3) 6 Commerce Rd \$10K in 19-20, \$9.8K in 20-21. Why?

19-20 spending was for engineering company to work on site drawings to get DEEP etc approval for possible development and driveway location.

20-21 funds are expected to be spent for appraisal on property to allow for marketing of property.

4) This group does a lot of work, but what is town's ROI? What is tangible value of this work?

The ROI of such work is hard to measure, but works to market the town and its businesses to attract customers and investment. Newtown residents alone will not be able to sustain the businesses. Networking with commercial brokers (Danbury area and Norwalk area), as well as State organizations, is important to keep Newtown top of mind when businesses and developers have opportunities for investment.

CoStar/LoopNet subscriptions are critical in knowing what properties in Newtown and Sandy Hook are listed for sale and lease.

It should also be kept in mind that the department also oversees renovations and events on the Fairfield Hills campus.

5) Would there be greater value to town in redistributing some funds toward greater support for Grants Administration?

Activities of grants administration and economic and community development activities are complementary yet focus on different things. Grant applications, administration and project management take a large portion of staff time, at a small incremental cost to the town unless matching funds are required. Funds are typically requested for infrastructure improvements and remediation of hazardous materials. Networking through staff time is crucial in order to be aware of the opportunities most likely provide financial return on time spent on applications. In 2019, almost \$1,000,000 was obtained through the efforts of the E&CD Department.