



**FOR INFO ON COVID-19 CALL 2-1-1**

[Town Website](#)

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As of today, there are now [5](#) confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Essex. Please continue to protect yourselves by following the guidelines of washing hands, staying home when possible, social distancing, wearing masks in public locations, etc. We are heading into the peak period so it's important that the guidelines are taken seriously.

Over the weekend, the CDC recommended citizens wear masks in public settings and where social distancing is difficult. This means indoor and outdoor settings. Whether going to the grocery store, the gas station, or walking on sidewalks and trails, wear a mask to protect yourself and others. [Click Here](#) for details.

### **THE BUDGET PROCESS**

The budget approval process for fiscal year 2020-2021, like so many other aspects of our lives right now, has been impacted by COVID-19. The Governor has issued a number of Executive Orders that direct the modified process for this year. Executive Order 7B temporarily suspends the in-person requirement for municipal public meetings. Executive Order 71 builds on this by suspending the in-person budget adoption requirement for municipalities and regional school systems and transfers the authority to adopt the budget. These orders do not suspend the requirement to provide public access to the meetings. The objective is to proceed in a manner as consistently as possible with our standard process.

Local impact: Meetings have been and will continue to be accessible to the public remotely. Posted agendas on the Town website include the information necessary to listen and

participate in the meetings via Zoom Meeting. Additionally, the meetings are recorded and are available to the public.

The Public Hearing for the Selectmen's budget and the Essex Board of Education budget, originally scheduled in the Town Hall Auditorium, will be held via Zoom Meeting on its original date of April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. In place of the Town Budget Meeting, the Board of Selectmen will authorize the Board of Finance to adopt a budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 as allowed by Executive Order 71. See proposed [Covid-19 Resolution](#).

The Board of Finance will hold a remote meeting, accessible by the public, on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm to consider and potentially vote on the budget.

Budget materials are available on the Town's website at [www.essexct.gov](http://www.essexct.gov) via a quick link entitled "2020-2021 Budgets" on the homepage. [Proposed Budget Summary](#).

The proposed fiscal year 2020-2021 budget for the Town and education totals \$24,653,577 which represents an increase of \$458,427 or +1.89% over the current fiscal year. Major budget drivers include contractual wage increases, a rise in debt service costs as well as support to our public safety services including fire and ambulance.

## HELP FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

- [Paycheck Protection Program Webinar](#): Offers forgivable loans to small businesses hit hard by the pandemic.
- [Business Resources](#): Information on tax filing extension, SBA loans, Cares Act, paycheck protection, unemployment assistance, etc.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Many local businesses are now selling merchandise online for pickup and/or delivery. If you have the means, please try to support them through this difficult time
  - [Supporttheshoreline.com](http://Supporttheshoreline.com)
  - [Board of Trade Facebook page](#).
- Town of Essex Emergency Assistance Fund. Donate today to help residents in need. Donations should be mailed to the Town of Essex Social Services Department, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT 06426.
- **Residents age 62 and over are invited to**

**participate in a new program where you will receive a weekly check-in call** from a community volunteer for the duration of social distancing. Please call the Social Services Department at **860-767-4340 x 201** to register. Please pass this information along to anyone you think would benefit from this service.

## **TAKE YOUR KEYS, REMOVE YOUR VALUABLES, AND LOCK YOUR VEHICLE.**

The Essex Resident Trooper's Office would like to remind our community that, even amid a national health crisis, there are criminals out there looking to seize on opportunities to take what is yours. The good news is that you can easily limit those opportunities. You may have noticed the banner hanging over West Avenue on your way down toward the Village recently. It is a reminder to "Take your keys, remove your valuables, and lock your vehicle." These three easy steps apply not only when parked at your residence, but when fueling up or stopping quick at a convenience store, coffee shop, or restaurant for take-out. Following these three steps is generally all it takes to end a criminal's opportunity to steal or damage your property. Please immediately report any suspicious vehicles, behavior, or people, or any vehicle break-ins, to the police.

It is also worth noting that there are online and telephone scams taking place due to the nationwide COVID-19 response. Never give out personal identifying information, like your social security number or bank information, to anyone you do not know or any website you do not trust. If in doubt, hang up the phone or click to close the browser window. A safe community is one that takes the proper precautions.

We are here for you when you need us.

In good health, your Essex Resident Trooper's Office

## **LATEST COVID-19 FACTS**

- [Center for Disease Control](#)
- [State of CT Coronavirus Information](#)
- [Governor Lamont Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Emergency Orders Issued by Governor Lamont](#)

**STAY HOME. STOP THE SPREAD. SAVE LIVES.**

*Norm*

### **Register for Essex News**

Encourage your friends and neighbors to receive this newsletter. Simply send an email request to [essexnews@essexct.gov](mailto:essexnews@essexct.gov) to be added to our distribution list.

**Sign up for Safer Essex Emergency Alerts**

Receive alerts about critical community information directly to your cell phone or email. Go to [www.essexct.gov](http://www.essexct.gov) and search "Safer Essex " or call 860-760-4340 x112.

**Town of Essex**