



The Town Hall will be open to the public on Monday, June 22nd with safety procedures in place. Please be patient and respectful while we keep residents and staff safe. I encourage you to do your Town Hall business by mail or virtually if possible. Many services can be done online, by phone, fax, or email.

[Town Website](#)

COVID-19 UPDATE:

There have been [40](#) (25 female, 15 male) confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Essex and 4 fatalities since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Congregate Setting:
 - 18 total cases (12 female, 6 male)
 - 3 fatalities (female)
- Non-Congregate Setting:
 - 22 total cases (13 female, 9 male)
 - 1 fatality (male)

[DPH Covid Summary 6 18 2020](#)

[How to get tested for COVID-19 FAQs](#)

Current public health testing recommendations to diagnose a person who is sick or may be infected with COVID-19. [Click Here](#)

Get the latest guidance: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Covid-19-Knowledge-Base/Latest-Guidance>

From the Tax Collector's Office

Yes, it's almost that time of year again! The first installment of taxes is due the month of July 2020. You have 30 days to pay and they are delinquent after August 1st, 2020. Bills will be mailed out the end of June. If your mortgage is escrowed, your physical tax bill will be mailed to the bank. As you can imagine, our office gets very busy at times. So don't wait in line, pay your taxes online at essexct.gov. Go into Online Services and then Pay Taxes. There is a charge paying by Credit Card, but just a \$2.00 flat fee for e-checks.

If you want us to send you a receipt, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope along with your payment. You can make multiple payments with one check if you wish, except for any delinquent motor vehicle taxes.

When making your request for a Motor Vehicle adjustment, please send or fax verification of the change to the Assessor's Office (860) 767-4340 ext. 123 or 124 or fax: (860) 767-8509. To send an attachment by e-

mail: jsypher@essexct.gov or bdamico@essexct.gov

Here is the link of accepted verifications:

<https://www.essexct.gov/assessor/pages/motor-vehicle-tax-bill-changes>

Our office will be closed on Tuesday, June 30th, to close the fiscal year and to prepare for July collections.

Park and Recreation

Essex recreational facilities open effective June 17, 2020

The Town of Essex is excited to announce the re-opening of several of our recreational facilities. Effective June 17, 2020 the following are open for recreational play:

- Hubbard Park's Basketball Courts and Volleyball Courts
- Grove Street Playground
- Viney Brook Dog Park
- Baseball Fields at Hubbard and Comstock Park are open for public recreation and Essex Little League play.

We appreciate your patience and flexibility as we work to adapt to many changes. With the steps that are in place we have a clear path forward to getting back to what we love doing. The Town mandates that all requirements in the governor's orders be followed. There are signs posted at each of our facilities that list guidelines to be followed while using the facilities. In addition, all Little League participants, coaches and guests must adhere to all Little League recommended guidelines.

All these guidelines are designed to provide a safe environment for organized youth, adult athletic and recreational opportunities.

Any additional questions or guidance please feel free to contact Mary Ellen Barnes at mbarnes@essexct.gov

Connecticut Department of Transportation Reminds Travelers to Wear Face Coverings; Be Aware of Social Distancing and Stay Safe

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) today announced a number of steps it has taken to prioritize safety for all users of the transportation system as the state enters Phase 2 of its return to pre-COVID operations.

Train and bus service is gradually being augmented to provide service to additional travelers who are beginning to travel again for work and other purposes.

First and most importantly, public transportation users can help protect themselves, fellow riders, and transit workers by wearing face coverings and not riding public transportation when they are sick. This is the most effective way to promote public safety. CTDOT has also directed service providers to continue intensive daily cleaning of buses and rail cars until further notice. On the bus system, riders will continue to board through the rear door on buses so equipped. Some buses already feature clear plastic dividers between the bus driver and the general public and CTtransit is moving forward with the procurement and installation of additional driver barriers on other buses. These barriers are expected to be installed before Labor Day.

As the weather has improved and traffic volumes were depressed, the

state saw a larger number of individuals walking and biking in many cities and towns. CTDOT is encouraging pedestrians to "Stop the Spread, Bump the Button" at pedestrian crosswalks. Pedestrians are advised - in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) - to use their elbow or arm, rather than their hands, to push the button for a walk signal. CTDOT has adhered "Bump the Button" decals to call buttons along state roadways and begun to replace agency-managed pedestrian crosswalk call buttons in several large cities, including Hartford and New Haven, with modern, larger call buttons for "bumping." Additional cities will be considered for these call button upgrades as funding permits.

"In the months since the coronavirus pandemic began, we have worked hard to prepare for a return to something approaching pre-COVID 'normalcy,'" Transportation Commissioner Joseph J. Giulietti said. "Travel on buses and trains was restricted to essential travel only. Now, with people re-engaging with our economy, we want to reassure the safety for all users on our trains, buses, roadways and sidewalks. I want to thank our customers and citizens for their patience and understanding, and our operators for their continued support and commitment to the safety of the public."

Rail service on the New Haven Line, Hartford Line, and Shore Line East continues to operate on a limited schedule. Although ridership, once down by more than 90 percent, is gradually beginning to build, there is substantial capacity for returning riders. Danbury Line and Waterbury Line service remains suspended to accelerate ongoing capital projects, while ridership levels remain at historic lows.

Bus service continues to operate on regular weekday and weekend schedules, providing service to countless essential workers who have continued to ride throughout the public health emergency. Bus ridership saw reductions of approximately 50 percent during the early weeks of the public health emergency. Ridership has begun to increase modestly following the Phase 1 reopening.

The pandemic also had the effect of dramatically reducing highway traffic volumes while at the same time causing a sharp uptick in speeding. CTDOT joined with the Connecticut State Police in a program urging motorists to slow down and "Help Our Heroes" - with electronic message boards along highways promoting the effort. As Connecticut enters Phase 2 of the recovery, CTDOT is continuing to stress dangers posed by speeding and encouraging travelers to observe speed limits, slow down, and watch out for crews in highway work zones.

CTDOT also reminded travelers that the 23 service plazas on I-95, Route 15, and I-395 are fully open for food, fuel, restrooms, and other amenities and travel conveniences. Enhanced cleaning services have been implemented. The seven rest areas along I-84, I-91, and I-95 have also returned to normal operations and staffing, with enhanced and more frequent cleaning in common areas.

Food Drive, June 20th from 10-2 at the Town Hall Parking Lot. Donors can stay in vehicle.

Troop F
Essex Resident Trooper / Essex Police Department
"Stuff-A-Cruiser"



Food Drive!



Essex Town Hall Parking Lot
Saturday June 20th, 2020
~ 10:00am until 2:00pm ~



*Non-perishable food items will be collected to benefit Essex families who need your generosity due to hardships caused by the current pandemic. Tri-Town Youth Services fully supports this event, and the ongoing fight to end children and families going hungry.

*Please place non-perishable food items in the trunk of your vehicle, back seat (if no trunk), or pickup truck bed and allow us to remove them for you while you stay in your vehicle.

We thank our community partners for your continuous support!

*Corporal P. Kenefick | Officer C. McCarthy | Corporal T. Belcourt | Officer K. Reilly
Officer R. Hart | Officer J. Howes | Resident Trooper Mark Roberts*

Honk, Beep, Yell, Clap, Wave and Cheer!

VRHS CLASS OF 2020
"Graduation Celebration!"

PLEASE COME OUT AND WATCH
Drive-by Graduation Parade!
Sponsored by Valley Safe Grad

Sunday, June 21st • 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Parade Route: begins on RT 154 at Greenwald Industries in Chester, proceeds straight through Deep River Center to Centerbrook, turns left onto Main St, ends by Essex Hardware

LATEST COVID-19 FACTS

- [COVID-19 Testing Sites Locator](#)
- [COVID-19 Self Checker](#)
- [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.

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 and search "Safer Essex" or call 860-760-4340 x112.

Sign up for Essex News

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

Sign up for Weekly Check-In Call

Residents age 62+ are encouraged to sign up for a weekly check-in call from a volunteer. Please call Essex Social Services Department at 860-767-4340 x 201.

Town of Essex