Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The death of George Floyd, a life that was cut short tragically, was seen around the world and brought deep-seeded inequities into focus. It was heartening to see so many people speaking out peacefully, including the Connecticut State police acknowledging the pain and heartache brought about by the senseless loss of life. Police officers are ashamed and equally offended as we all are. It was disheartening to see that the violence propagated by some, was diminishing the message of the protesters. Violence and destruction do not provide a solution. Open, respectful dialogue with one another is needed to create unity. We denounce racism in all its forms and stand with those in our nation who are calling for systemic change.

As things start to open again please do not become complacent. Wear a mask, social distance, and stay home if you don't feel well. We will be dealing with Covid-19 until there is a vaccine available.

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.

With the arrival of summer, I would like to remind residents that the Town does not have an ordinance on hours of operation in which a contractor or landscaper may work at a property. We would expect such hours to be 7 am-5 pm weekdays with limited work hours on the weekends. We rely on residents to be neighborly and considerate by ensuring that construction, and the use of power tools and landscaping equipment, be only during these times. We have avoided both
noise and blight ordinances but we do get complaints, so please be mindful of your neighbor's right to enjoy their property.

Once again hurricane season is upon us. Hurricane season is June 1st - November 30th each year, though storms can occur outside these dates. The Town of Essex has an [Emergency Preparedness Guidebook](#) for our residents and you may want to refer to these guidelines to help you prepare.

Finally, Congratulations to the Valley Regional Class of 2020! With the current climate of pandemic and protest, it reminds us that things don't always go as planned, life can and will be brutally unfair, we need one another, stand up for what you believe in, you can effect change, and you are more resilient than you were just a few months ago. What you take from this newly gained experience will not only define your character but that of your generation. Make it matter. Your future is bright!

Be safe,

*Norm*

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**Regresar**

The Presidential Preference Primaries in Connecticut will be held on **Tuesday, August 11, 2020**. Voting will take place at the Essex Town hall from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm.

You must be registered with either the Democratic or Republican Party to vote in their Primary. If you are registered as unaffiliated you can change your registration to either party until August 10 at noon. The deadline to change your party affiliation has already passed.

To change your registration, or to register to vote visit [https://voterregistration.ct.gov/OLVR/welcome.do](https://voterregistration.ct.gov/OLVR/welcome.do)

Applications for absentee ballots will be sent to all registered Democrats and Republicans from the Secretary of the State's office by end of June.

If you have any questions please call 860-767-4340 Ext 142 or email registrar@essexct.gov.

Registrars of Voters
Caitlin Riley
COVID-19 CHANGES
Due to the Covid-19 virus we are encouraging everyone to pay by credit card or mail in their payment. Enclosed with tax bills will be postage paid envelopes for your convenience. If you want a receipt, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Interest is normally charged at the rate of 1.5% per month, 18% per year. However, the LOW INTEREST RATE PROGRAM will allow for a lower rate of interest: .25% per month, or 3% per year. This is for a period of up to 90 days only.

TAXES WILL BE DUE JULY 1, 2020

- The first installment of town tax for real estate, personal property and motor vehicle taxes will be due on July 1, 2020.
- Supplemental motor vehicle taxes will be due January 1, 2021 by any person who owns a motor vehicle which was registered after the first day of October 2020 and registered before the first day of August 2021.

FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES WEBSITE:

Current Connecticut Resident:

- Connecticut law requires all Connecticut residents with a vehicle registration, driver's license, or non-driver identification card to notify the DMV within 48 hours of any change of address.
- Changing your address on your license does not change the address on your registered vehicle(s) or vice versa. Be sure to correct the tax town code on the change of address form as well when moving from one town to another.

Moving into Connecticut from out of state:

- Once you have established residency in Connecticut, you have 30 days to transfer your out-of-state license to Connecticut. You have 60 days to transfer your vehicle registration(s) to this state.

Visit the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles website for additional information. www.ct.gov/dmv.

Here are just a few of the online services as listed on the DMV website.
Please take the time to check your license, vehicle registration(s) and emissions status. You can cancel your plates online (be sure to print a receipt of the cancellation) and you can re-register a vehicle (check out the time-frame).

If you owe outstanding municipal motor vehicle property taxes, you will need to resolve your tax issue(s) before attempting to register or re-register. If you owe taxes to the Town of Essex and want to be taken off the delinquent list, pay by credit card online at www.essexcnt.gov.

Megan Haskins
Tax Collector
Assessor's Office

Motor Vehicle Tax Bill Changes
Sale or Disposal of a Motor Vehicle

Due to changes at the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles

Two (2) forms of documentation are required to change a tax bill.

**Required Item #1** - Marker Plate/Registration cancellation receipt from the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles is mandatory.

**Item #2** - Any one of the following:

- Bill of sale
- Insurance statement of cancellation which must include the date of cancellation, year, make, model and VIN#
- Purchase agreement showing vehicle listed as trade-in
- Transfer of Title
- Out of State Registration
- Police report of stolen vehicle which was not recovered
- Receipt from Junk Yard
- Charitable donation receipt

Jessica Sypher, CCMA II, Assessor
jsyper@essexct.gov

Betsy D'Amico, Assistant to the Assessor
bdamico@essexct.gov

860-767-4340 x 123

Health Department

**Ticks - Be Aware, Be Safe**

It's time to get outside but we need to take some precautions. The tick season may be particularly bad this year as there was a very mild winter. While we have at least 6 tick species in Connecticut the most prominent species we see (based on tick submissions to the Connecticut Agricultural Extension Center - CAES) are the black-legged (deer) tick at almost 81% and the American dog tick at 16%. The Lone Start tick comes in third at around 3%. Testing is almost exclusively done on the black-legged ticks. The CAES will test ticks that are engorged and have been removed from people. These are submitted through your local health department here in Essex.

Black-legged ticks will hitch a ride on passers-by from leaf litter, grasses and shrubs. They are equal opportunity feeders in attaching to the (1) waist, abdomen and groin, (2) head and neck, (3) Arm, (4) chest, shoulder and back and (5) feet and legs. Dog ticks favor the head and neck >50%.
Wearing light colored clothing makes seeing ticks and removing them easier (often before they have a chance to attach). Tucking pants into socks helps too. Insect repellents are a good protection against both ticks and mosquitoes. Always check yourself for ticks if you’ve spent time outside and pay attention to children and pets that depend on you. Showering helps remove ticks and makes them easier to spot. While cleaning clothing, remember that washing may not kill a tick but the heat of a dryer (for about an hour) will.

Last, no need to be paranoid about these nuisance creatures. It usually takes at least 48 hours for them to transmit a disease to you from the time they attach. That gives you plenty of time to find and remove them!

Stuff-A-Cruiser on Sat, June 20th

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 ~

tri-town
YOUTH SERVICES

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

Living with Black Bears

Black bears are becoming increasingly common in Connecticut as the population continues to grow and expand. Reports of bear sightings, even in heavily populated residential areas, have been on the rise. The Wildlife Division has also seen an increase in the number of reported problems with black bears. The primary
contributing factor to bear nuisance problems is the presence of easily-accessible food sources near homes and businesses. Fed bears can become habituated and lose their fear of humans. Bears should NEVER be fed, either intentionally or accidentally.

*If You See a Bear:*

- Observe it from a distance.
- Advertise your presence by shouting and waving your arms or walk slowly away.
- Never attempt to feed or attract bears.
- Report bear sightings to the Wildlife Division (or call 860-424-3011)

For more in-depth information:

**Essex Foundation Daffodils**

![Daffodils]

**BRIGHT SPOT FOR ESSEX:**
Thanks to The Essex Foundation's ongoing gateway beautification efforts, 20,000 daffodils enjoy their first bloom on Route 154 across from the Essex fire station. The bulbs were planted in November by Sullivan Lawn Service, which required several crew members and several days to cover the half-acre expanse. Funding for the bulb purchase and planting services came from a bequest to The Essex Foundation by the late Elizabeth Callender, with additional support provided by The Paul Foundation, Centerbrook Properties and individual donations.
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Social Services Needs Your Help! Each Town’s emergency relief fund allows them to provide food and financial assistance to local residents who are struggling to cover basic needs during this difficult time. The number of residents seeking support has DOUBLED in a few weeks and is expected to continue to grow. Let’s work together to keep these resources available for our unemployed neighbors.

Chester Community Fund  
56 Chester Town Hall  
203 Middlesex Ave.  
Chester, CT 06412

Deep River Community Fund  
c/o Richard H. Smith Town Hall  
174 Main Street  
Deep River CT 06417

Town of Essex Social Services Assistance Fund  
c/o Essex Town Hall  
29 West Avenue  
Essex, CT 06426

Register for Essex News
Encourage your friends and neighbors to receive this newsletter, simply send a request to Essex News at essexnews@essexct.gov to be added to our distribution list.