

Town of Portland, Connecticut

Located in Middlesex County

Incorporated in 1841

www.portlandct.org

Portland on the Move Newsletter

May 2020

In accordance with Governor Lamont's Executive Orders to extend public school closures through at least May 20, 2020, the Town municipal offices will remain closed to the public as well. We continue to serve the public by way of telephone, email, facsimile and mail communication.

The CT Alert system (www.ctalert.gov) allows you to sign up to receive emergency alerts on your landline phone, mobile phone, work phone, text message, e-mail and more.

The Primary Elections have been further delayed now to Tuesday August 11, 2020. Absentee ballots will be available on Tuesday July 21, 2020. Contact the Town Clerk's Office for details.

Special Low Interest Rate Program

Governor's Executive Order No. 7S
Section 6(b)

On April 7, 2020, the Town of Portland Board of Selectmen adopted the Special Low Interest Rate Program of which provides relief from interest up to 90 days at 0.25% per month on **delinquent** real estate, personal property, motor vehicle taxes and water, sewer usage and sewer assessment charges.

Water and Sewer usage bills dated April 13, 2020 will have 90 days (July 10, 2020) to pay at the reduced monthly interest rate of 0.25%.

Taxes due July 1, 2020 will have 90 days (until September 30, 2020) to pay at reduced monthly interest rate of 0.25%.

Please note, if any bill is paid by the posted due date, as always there is no interest charged.

On the 91st day, interest will revert to the statutory rate of 18% per annum (yearly) or 1.5% per month from due date.



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Contact Information

Phone: 860-342-6700
www.portlandct.org

This publication brought to you by the Portland First Selectwoman's Office

Catch-phrase From St. Louis American Red Cross in 1918:

"Cover up each cough and sneeze, if you don't you'll spread disease"

Chatham Health District Tips

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- **Wash hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds**
- Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Wear a face mask at all times when out in public
- Please maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet
- Avoid crowds
- Stay home if you're sick
- For the most current updates and recommendations, visit ct.gov/coronavirus.
- For general questions call 2-1-1

Portland Transfer Station

Effective April 13, 2020 the scale for Bulky Waste was reopened.

Payment transactions are now conducted through the window in the scale office. The hand sanitizer must be applied prior to entering. Payment by check is preferred, to avoid the spread of contamination from cash. Residents may continue utilizing the Transfer Station for MSW-Garbage, Single Steam, Brush/Leaves and Recyclables.

Trash Bags can be purchased at Adams Hometown Market as well as at the Transfer Station.

Employees have been asked to refrain from assisting the public in a direct manner with loading and unloading. If you are unable to do this on your own, we ask that you come back when precautions have subsided.

We appreciate your patience during this difficult time.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Public Works Dept. at ccreem@portlandct.org or call us at 860-342-6733

Tax Collector's Office (860) 342-6737

Until further notice the office is CLOSED to the public. Due to the public not allowed in Town Hall, payment must be by personal check, money order, or bank check only.

At this time only Tax payments may be made by credit or debit card through the Town of Portland website.

Water and Sewer usage bills are due and payable by May 13, 2020.

For your convenience there is a payment box at the rear entrance of Town Hall or send it by mail to: Water/Sewer Dept, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480-0071.

Do not hesitate to contact us with questions, concerns or to set up a payment plan by telephone (860) 342-6737 or email:

Nancy DiGirolamo: ndigirolamo@portlandct.org

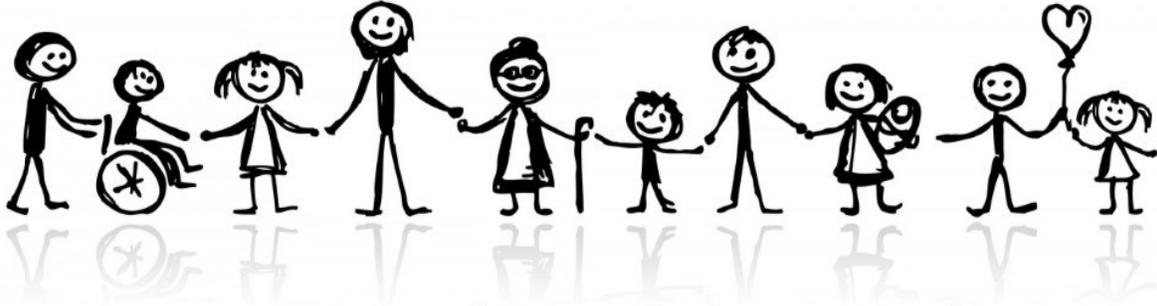
Tracy Thompson: tthompson@portlandct.org

United States Census 2020—Everyone Counts! Started April 1, 2020

Respond online, by phone, or by mail. What's at stake...

- Billions in federal funds for public education and housing, roads and bridges, and more.
- The number of seats Connecticut has in Congress.
- It's mandated by the US Constitution—the US has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.

Let's Recognize our Unsung Heroes in Portland and Cromwell!



In these uncertain times, it is more important than ever that we come together as a community and support one another.

Every Friday through this crisis, I will be highlighting members of our community who are making a difference in the lives of others.

Do you know of any unsung heroes that deserve recognition for their dedication to others during this time of crisis?

Please send your nominations to me at Christie.Carpino@cga.ct.gov to be considered! Follow @RepCarpino to view each video Friday mornings! #UnsungHeroes

Town of Portland—May Newsletter

Portland Library

The Portland Library is now on Instagram!
Connect with us @portlandlibraryct



Library Building Project

The Library fortuitously closed during March and April to allow for an interior update, utilizing a Connecticut State Library Building Grant and funds from the Library's Endowment Fund: Donations and raised funds had been invested and grown to securely provide funds for the required grant match. The project includes replacement of the original carpeting, most of which was installed in 1982. Other improvements include new energy efficient lighting in the lobby area, quiet new entrance doors, more ergonomic seating, a new service desk, and other furniture that provide for improved accessibility. For more information on the project or the fund, please call Janet Nocek 342-6771.

We continue to be at your service and are answering questions via telephone and e-mail. In anticipation of re-opening, we are corresponding with the Chatham Health District and other libraries in the area to ensure that we adopt the best practices to allow for a healthy environment for our staff and visitors. We dearly miss our library users!

Library and community celebrate! May 4th marks 125 years of public library in Portland! To mark this milestone, we are gathering pictures and artifacts to include in a time capsule from Portland in 2020. We hope that you will send us your pictures of notable scenes and activities that depict life in our community today. Please send suggestions and pictures to us, whether they depict group actions, describe a local hero, or just show interesting things about the life and times of Portland today.

Library Service updates:

If you are seeking internet access on your phones or tablets, you may use the Library Wi-Fi to access the internet. The password is **BookWorld**. Park with care in the library parking lot and know the Library's Computer Use policy. (See policies in the ABOUT the LIBRARY tab on the webpage.)

For Youth: The Library offers many services including virtual book discussions and online story times as well as guides to other fun and useful sites. Visit our webpage for info and to join in the fun.

Online adult events beginning in May: Mystery Book club, Gardening chats, and a Coffee Club for discussing favorite books and films.

EBooks, music to download, and more: The Library will receive an increased annual grant, of approximately \$8,000, from the State Library as reimbursement for our part in the statewide library borrowing program. The Library Board has released the funds to support eBooks and eAudiobooks, music, and more, through the Hoopla service. Additionally, Overdrive offers eBooks and eAudio. Thanks are due also to the Friends of the Portland Library for their support of online materials and programs!



Books and other items that are currently checked out will not be due before June 1. We will begin to accept book returns during May. More information will be posted on the website, or you may call for more information.

Visit www.portlandlibraryct.org for more information and other upcoming programs



P O R T L A N D



PARKS & RECREATION



Check out all these great ways to stay active and involved!

Online Tai Chi with Ken Zaborowski!

We are excited to be offering an 8-week online Tai Chi program using the Zoom online streaming platform! This program will be run by a live Tai Chi instructor and will take place from 9:30am to 10:30am on Wednesday mornings starting on April 22nd. Each class costs just \$5!

Art Programs with Abrakadoodle!

We are continuing to offer art programs for children ages 3-5 and children ages 6 and older. Each class features art projects inspired by the artistic styles of famous artists throughout history. We are also coordinating an virtual adult paint night; art supplies will be included in the registration fee!

Go Walking or Hiking!

There are many great places to walk or hike in Portland including Portland Riverfront Park, the Reservoir Rim Trail and the Portland Airline Trail. If you arrive at a park and crowds are forming, choose a different park or trail, or return another day or time. Please make sure to observe the CDC's minimum recommended social distancing of six feet from other people, whether you're walking, biking, or hiking.

Online Game Nights!

Parks and Recreation recently teamed up with KAP Events to host an online JUKEBOX Bingo for the families of Portland and Marlborough on April 23rd! The event was a success with over 40 households participating! Check back soon, we hope to have more of these events in the future!

Check our Facebook!

Follow us on Facebook @PortlandCTParksandRecreation! We are constantly updating our page with online and outdoor activity suggestions! We have posted information about some free exercise classes through Personal Euphoria and free exercise videos for kids through Skyhawks. Be sure to take a look at our Earth Day post that includes our Nature Scavenger Hunt and a Virtual Earth Day Seek & Find Challenge using the iNaturalist mobile app!

Register online at <https://portland.recdesk.com>

Portland Parks and Recreation * 860-342-6757 * 265 Main Street, PO Box 71 * Portland, CT

PORTLAND TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Portland's Area Code is 860

Animal Control	342-6789
Accounts Payable	342-6724
Accounting	342-6725
Assessor	342-6744
Benefits Administrator	342-6723
Building Department	342-6727
Economic Development.....	342-6720
Finance Director	342-6726
Fire Marshal	262-7223
First Selectman's Office	342-6715
Information.....	342-6700
Payroll.....	342-6722
Planning / Land Use.....	342-6720
Public Works Office.....	342-6733
Registrar of Voters.....	342-6747
Tax / Revenue Collector.....	342-6737
Town Clerk.....	342-6743
Town Tech / I.T.....	342-6769
Water & Sewer Billing.....	342-6735
Zoning Enforcement	342-6719

BOE Central Office – 33 East Main Street

Superintendent of Schools.....	342-6790
BOE Business Manager	342-6794
BOE Maintenance Department	
<i>95 High Street (MS)</i>	262-7244

Schools:

Brownstone Intermediate School	
<i>314 Main Street</i>	342-6765
Gildersleeve Elementary School	
<i>565 Main Street</i>	342-0411
Middle School	
<i>95 High Street</i>	342-1880
Senior High School	
<i>95 High Street</i>	342-1720
Valley View Elementary School	
<i>81 High Street</i>	342-3131

Fire Department / Emergency Medical Services (Volunteer)

All Emergency Calls.....	911
Fire Chief.....	342-6750
Fire House Company #1	
<i>1 Middlesex Avenue</i>	342-6751
Fire House Company #2	
<i>594 Main Street</i>	342-6752
Fire House Company #3	
<i>169 Great Hill Road</i>	342-6753

Chatham Heath District (East Hampton)

<i>240 Middletown Avenue</i>	365-0884
<i>Portland Office</i>	342-6718

Housing Authority

<i>9 Chatham Court</i>	342-1688
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Police Department – 265 Main Street

All Emergency Calls.....	911
Police Reports & Records Only.....	342-6780
Other Purposes 24 hour-Dispatch....	347-2541
Emergency Management	342-6767

Public Library

<i>20 Freestone Avenue</i>	342-6770
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Parks & Recreation

<i>265 Main Street</i>	342-6757
Hotline (<i>field closures, event updates</i>)	262-7234

Public Works Departments

Buildings Maintenance	
<i>265 Main Street</i>	342-6748
Coe Avenue Pump Station	
<i>144 Middlesex Avenue</i>	
Highway Garage	
<i>505 Glastonbury Turnpike</i>	342-3815
Indian Hill Pump Station	
<i>25 Indian Hill Avenue</i>	
Riverside Pump Station	
<i>24 Riverside Street</i>	
Sewer Treatment Plant	
<i>3 Main Street</i>	342-3159
Town Reservoir	
<i>379 Old Marlborough Turnpike</i>	N/A
Transfer / Recycling Station	
<i>39 Sand Hill Road</i>	342-6732
Water Garage	
<i>505 Glastonbury Turnpike</i>	342-3333

Probate Court Judge (Marlborough)

<i>9 Austin Drive, Suite 211</i>	295-6239
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Senior Citizen Center/The Waverly Center

<i>7 Waverly Avenue</i>	342-6760
Food Bank (<i>basement</i>)	342-6795

Youth Services

<i>265 Main Street</i>	342-6758
Youth & Family Counseling.....	342-6716

Meeting Schedule for Charter Designated Boards and Commissions

Board of Education.....	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
Board of Selectmen.....	1 st & 3 rd Wednesday @ 7:30 PM
Building Code Board of Appeals	as needed
Conservation Commission	1 st Wednesday @ 6:30 PM
Economic Development Commission	2 nd Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
Emergency Management Advisory Board	as needed
Ethics Commission	3 rd Wednesday @ 7:00 PM
Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.....	3 rd Monday @ 5:00 PM
Housing Code Board of Appeals	as needed
Inland Wetlands Commission	1 st Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
Library Board of Directors.....	3 rd Thursday @ 7:00 PM
Long-Range Capital Improvements Commission.....	as needed
Parks & Recreation Commission.....	2 nd Monday @6:00 PM
Planning & Zoning Commission.....	1 st & 3 rd Thursday @ 7:00 PM
Senior Citizens Advisory Board.....	4 th Wednesday @ 11:00 AM
Water & Sewer Commission.....	1 st Monday @ 7:00 PM
Zoning Board of Appeals.....	4 th Thursday @ 7:00 PM

Some public meetings may be viewed on Zoom—go to the Town’s website

www.portlandct.org



Portland Town Hall

33 East Main Street

P.O. Box 71

Portland, CT 06480-0071

Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer