



Paul J. Fetherston
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

MEMORANDUM

To: Newington Town Council
From: Marian Amodeo, Acting Town Manager
Date: May 17, 2006
Re: Monthly Report – April 2006

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

During the month of April, there was a focus on final budget work and preparation for the upcoming AFSCME and IBPO union negotiations. A final Public Hearing was held before the Town Council adoption of the FY 2006-07 Town budget. Team meetings with various Town department heads and staff continued as solutions to residents' problems and other topics were discussed and worked on by appropriate staff. Personnel issues also were addressed as they arose.

Other items of interest during the month included:

- Quarterly Mid-State Collaborative meeting
- Recognition luncheon and presentation for Revenue Collector Jean Mangan
- First *Lunch and Learn* program for Town staff
- Town Strategic Planning Committee
- Employee Performance Evaluation Committee
- Library Volunteer breakfast
- CRCOG Municipal Aid meeting
- State Capitol for Library Summer Reading Program award
- Meetings with representatives of the Deming Young Foundation
- Human Services Volunteer Recognition Dinner
- Meeting with Attorney Peter Boorman re pending cases
- Meeting with Paul Hutcheon re Central Connecticut Health District
- Library and Town Hall staff meetings

Paid overtime for the month of April 2006 was as follows:

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT	Overtime Hours	Cost
Vehicles and Equipment	5.60	\$ 222.12
Weekend Stand-by and Call-in	20.00	703.04
Road Maintenance	1.90	123.96
Total	27.50	\$ 1,049.12

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PARKS AND GROUNDS DIVISION	Overtime Hours	Cost
Project Work	14.00	\$ 479.22
Weekend Duty	10.00	342.30
Groundskeeping	204.00	6,982.92
Herbicide Application	16.00	547.68
Total	244.00	\$ 8,352.12
POLICE DEPARTMENT	2005-06 Budget Overtime Appr.*	Overtime Expended Fiscal Year to Date
Patrol	\$ 723,778.00	\$ 582,202.23
Investigation	73,292.00	54,994.34
Communication	160,605.00	134,231.76
Education/Training	50,136.00	46,522.94
Support Services	22,000.00	20,918.62
School Resources Officer Grant	3,349.00	2,726.46
Animal Control	11,000.00	9,712.81
Total	\$1,044,160.00	\$ 850,686.61

*Includes mid-year transfers

PERSONNEL

- The position of Revenue Collector was advertised with a closing date of April 28. Over 50 applications were received.
- The Accounts Administrator position in the Finance Department was also advertised with a closing date of May 19.
- Six internal applications were received for the Facilities Maintainer position.

Professional Development

- On April 4, Public Health Inspector Greg Mattus attended the monthly "Supervisor/Manager Training Class" sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Mr. Mattus also attended a half-day seminar on "Avian Influenza" at Yale University.
- Highway repair staff attended an air conditioning certification clinic and an electronic diagnostics class for heavy duty truck engines.
- Senior and Disabled Center Director Dianne Stone, Administrative Secretary B.J. Crowder, and Program Coordinator Denise Haas attended a customer service related training program sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Senior Center Personnel.
- Social Worker Teri Snyder participated in the Municipal Geriatric Social Services Providers' Network Meeting at which the topic was hoarding and clutter and attended a seminar on the Exception and Appeal Process under the Medicare Part D, presented by the Center for Medicare Advocacy.
- Denise Haas attended a luncheon seminar sponsored by The Consortium for Gerontological Education entitled: "Boomers, Seniors and You" that focused on marketing to boomers.
- Recreation Supervisors Sean Dwyer and Kristine Kravontka attended CRPA's Quarterly Training Workshop on "Innovative Programming" and "Strategies for Effective Employee Management; Managing Employees from Hire to Discharge."

RISK MANAGEMENT

The ninth month of the 2005-2006 Blue Cross/Blue Shield plan year produced a combined paid claim total that was higher than the estimates that were developed at renewal. The total claims were estimated at \$634,441 per month; the initial number for March 2006 came in at \$734,917.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY

- Completed 99 work orders.
- Blocked 34,902 SPAM/ unsolicited emails and 76 viruses from reaching Town employees.
- Worked with Library staff on their new book ordering system.
- Updated the Parks and Recreation Department's swimming pool pass database for mailing and current year activities.
- Updated the anti virus programs on the Senior and Disabled Center's Senior Net computers.
- The Library's pay-for-print system was upgraded. The new pay for print configuration allows additional patron computers to have black/ white and color printing capabilities.
- IST staff deployed the new public library network. Internet, word processing and OPAC computers were replaced as part of the new network design/ upgrade.
- Upgraded the Highway Department's RTA software application to the vendor's current version. This software application helps the Highway Department with various fleet management functions.
- Development work on a web-based version of the Parks & Recreation survey began.
- The Town's web page had 31,000 visits in April; the calendar and employment sections were the most frequently visited.
- Paul G. Boutot, Director of Information Systems and Technology, attended a conference entitled "Challenges and Solutions in Local Government" hosted by CityView in Trumbull, CT.
- Mr. Boutot attended the Municipal GIS Advisory Committee meeting held at the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC).

FINANCE

Accounting and Administration

- The Town's 2006-07 budget was adopted during the month of April with a mill rate of 25.76 and a total operating budget of \$85.0 million.
- The Town's pension consultant, Mark Wetzel, left UBS on April 24th to form his own independent advisory group. UBS officials promptly assigned new personnel to the account. The Town's pension assets of \$50 million are held in trust by UBS, the money managers are all managed through UBS, and all pension administration services are provided by UBS.
- Following a Request for Proposals for Agent of Record for health benefits, the Employee Insurance and Pension Benefits Committee recommended that the Lockton Benefits Group be appointed. The Lockton Group brings a wealth of experience, depth and national purchasing power to the account. During the month, several transition meetings were held between Town staff and the Lockton Group.
- The Telecommunications Grant was received during the month in the amount of \$157,500.

The Town received the following interest rates on investments. This list includes outstanding investments that are under the control of the Finance Department and includes the General Fund and other Town Funds.

INVESTMENTS, BY ACCOUNTING TYPE

(Unaudited)

4/30/06

General Fund	\$36,103,589
Special Revenue Funds	1,840,387
Capital Projects Funds	812,673
Internal Service Fund	3,044,176
Trust and Agency Funds	<u>1,260,049</u>
TOTAL, ESTIMATED BY FUND	\$43,060,874

INVESTMENTS, BY INSTITUTION TYPE

Unaudited)

4/30/06

	Interest %	Interest \$	\$ Invested		
<i>Ave. Monthly Yield, Annualized</i>	Current Month	Last Month	Current Month	Last Month	
STIF	4.94	4.82	26,088	41,606	\$ 9,602,927
CLASS PLUS	4.40	4.23	25,415	30,189	6,198,307
Banknorth	5.06	4.96	60,814	61,863	15,160,978
Sovereign Bank MM	5.39	4.97	51,668	51,535	<u>12,098,662</u>
Total Outstanding Investments					\$43,060,874

Assessor

- Real estate transfers were made in the Assessor's office database up to the middle of April.
- Discussions about conversion of the database to a Windows environment were resumed with CLT.
- Approximately 150 residents applied for elderly tax benefits. Applications will continue to be taken until May 15, 2006. The office worked on the State and the local option additional benefit.
- Planning and tracking of court cases as a result of the 2005 revaluation began with meetings with a real estate appraiser and the Town Attorney.

Revenue Collector

- Revenue Collector Jean Mangan left Town service after 30 years of dedicated service to the Town; Madeline Devellis, retired Tax Collector with the Town of Glastonbury, has assumed the duties on a part-time basis.
- With the new mill rate approved at 25.76 mills, the 2006-07 tax billing process got underway to meet an early June mail date.

PURCHASING

RFP NO. 3, 2005-06, PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

Opening Date: August 25, 2005

Respondents

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., Middletown
BETA Group, Inc., Rocky Hill
Milone and MacBroom, Cheshire
Applied Research Associates, Champaign, IL
MACTEC Engineering & Consulting, Beltsville, MD

The contract has been awarded to BETA Group.

RFP NO. 4, 2005-06, CEMETERY SERVICES

Opening Date: November 2, 2005

Respondent

Newington Memorial Funeral Home, Newington

The proposal is under review.

RFP NO. 7, 2005-06, EMPLOYEE INSURANCE AND BENEFITS AGENT OF RECORD

Opening Date: March 1, 2006

Respondents

TD Banknorth Insurance Group, Wethersfield
Ovation Benefits Group, Farmington
Mercer Health & Benefits, Hartford
Beacon Financial, Monroe
Lockton Benefit Group, Farmington
Savino, Sturrock & Sullivan, East Hartford

The contract was awarded to Lockton Benefit Group based on the recommendation of the Employee Insurance and Pension Benefits Committee.

RFP NO. 10, 2005-06, HIGH SCHOOL AIR CONDITIONING INSTALLATION ARCHITECT

Opening Date: May 2, 2006

BID NO. 21, 2005-06, CLEANING OF POLICE UNIFORMS

Opening Date: May 9

BID NO. 22, 2005-06, GENERAL PLUMBING AND RELATED REPAIRS

Opening Date: April 21, 2006

Bidder	Location	Reg. Rate	OT Rate
Aqua Backflow	Newington	2006-07 \$55.00	2006-07 \$82.50
		2007-08 \$55.00	2007-08 \$82.50
Roto Rooter	Windsor	2006-07 \$95.00	N/A
		2007-08 \$95.00	N/A

The bid will be awarded to Aqua Backflow for their low bid.

TOWN CLERK

- There were 101 property transfers with \$47,095.00 collected in Town conveyance tax and \$81,160.00 collected in State conveyance tax. Property sales for the month totaled \$16,077,000.
- On April 4, Town Clerk Tanya Lane attended the annual Legislative Reception at the State Capitol sponsored by the Connecticut Town Clerks Association.
- April 11 kicked off the first in a series of "Lunch & Learn" presentations. Recreation Supervisor Kristine Kravontka shared tips on creating effective brochures. The next presentation will be May 11. Bob Cosgrove, Public Health Coordinator, and his wife will talk about the care and breeding of parrots. The couple hold positions on state and federal associations for Aviculture.

Data Summary--April 2006

	April 2006	April 2005	FY 2005-06 to Date	FY 2004-05 to Date
Land Record Documents	604	596	6,308	6,381
Dog Licenses Sold	18	23	461	475
Game Licenses Sold	750	564	2,280	1715
Vital Statistics				
Marriage Licenses	10	10	195	180
Civil Unions	1		10	
Death Certificates	32	28	270	290
Birth Certificates	24	31	385	185

Total General Fund Revenue	\$ 68,159.75	\$ 65,249.40	\$ 554,591.56	\$ 643,291.36
Town Document Preservation	\$ 1,266.00	\$ 601.00	\$ 9,925.00	\$ 5,926.00
State Document Preservation	\$ 1,266.00	\$ 1,202.00	\$ 12,014.00	\$ 11,832.00
State Treasurer (\$26 fee)	\$ 16,458.00		\$ 101,868.00	
Locip	\$ 1,899.00		\$ 11,754.00	
State Game Licenses	\$ 15,079.00	\$ 11,143.00	\$ 34,720.50	\$ 32,196.00
State Dog Licenses	\$ 138.00	\$ 197.00	\$ 3,373.50	\$ 3,186.00
Dog Licenses Surcharge	\$ 48.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 1,204.00	\$ 1,125.00
Marriage & CU Surcharge	\$ 171.00	\$ 190.00	\$ 2,033.00	\$ 2,933.00
Grand Total	\$104,484.75	\$ 78,630.40	\$ 731,483.56	\$ 700,489.36

REGISTRARS

- The mandated annual canvass was completed.
- The Registrars of Voters and Deputies attended the annual Secretary of the State Spring Conference at the Hartford Hilton.
- Primary petitions became available during the month.
- The status of new voting machines is still being discussed.
- Thirty-two new applications were processed.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Background investigations for Police Officer candidates continued in April with a final interview with one candidate scheduled for early May. Polygraphs are scheduled in May for other candidates.
- An internal candidate for Dispatcher is scheduled to be interviewed in the beginning of May.
- A new hiring process for Certified Police Officers commenced in March with a closing date of April 17. A written exam is scheduled for May 12.
- The officer hired under the Universal Hiring Grant has completed most of his POST training and has entered the department's FTO program. Another officer has completed the FTO program and is now assigned to regular patrol.
- On April 20 the Town's Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) held its quarterly meeting. At this meeting the Town's new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was unveiled to the group for the first time. The EOC is located in the new Police facility and has radios, phones, fax machines, and other equipment for Town-wide emergencies.
- On April 24 the department hosted a meeting of the seven regional SWAT teams. This meeting was a continuation of the Homeland Security Grant that supplied common equipment and radios to the seven teams. The teams are discussing and planning standard operating procedures for all teams to use to facilitate coordination in critical incidents.
- On April 25 members of the Police Department met with the Computer Aided Dispatcher (CAD) and Records Management Systems (RMS) vendors to introduce the department to the new owners and discuss any issues being experienced with the system.
- On Saturday, April 8, 2006, the Patrol Division completed a "Driving Under the Influence" traffic post on the Berlin Turnpike. This assignment was 75% funded under a State of Connecticut Department of Transportation Grant. There were two DWI arrests, two motor vehicle arrests, one motor vehicle warning, and one drug related arrest.
- Three tasers were received under the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant sponsored by the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management.
- Patrol officers responded to a report of a robbery in April. A pedestrian claimed that he was assaulted and robbed after he tried to get a ride from a passerby. A description of the suspects and the suspect vehicle was given to surrounding towns, but the suspects were not located.

- Patrol officers investigated burglary complaints at two local churches. The investigations are still ongoing.
- Forty offenses were the subject of investigation by Detective Division personnel in April.
- In February, the department arrested 79 adults: 15 for assaults, 1 for burglary, 1 for auto theft, 15 for larcenies, 1 for vandalism, 1 for weapons violations, 1 for sex offenses, 14 narcotic violations, 9 DUI, and 21 others for miscellaneous violations. Four persons under 18 were arrested or referred for criminal acts. Three officers were assaulted.

February 2006

Type of Crime	Number of Offenses	Value of Crime
Murder	0	-0-
Forcible Rape	0	-0-
Robbery	0	-0-
Assault	10	-0-
Burglary	95	\$37,202
Larceny Theft	39	\$17,777
Motor Vehicle Theft	3	\$18,300
Arson	1	

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department responded to 59 alarms/emergencies as follows:

	<u>April 2006</u>	<u>10 months Cum.</u>
Residential	19	172
Commercial, Industrial, Office	0	67
Hospital, School	1	25
Vehicle	4	26
Rescue, Police Assistance	2	13
Grass, Brush, Leaves, Dumpster, Rubbish	14	53
Hazardous Materials/Clean up	2	28
Investigative Alarm	13	114
False Alarm	0	5
Mutual Aid/Standby	0	12
Carbon Monoxide Investigation	4	39
Water Related Incidents/Pump Outs	<u>0</u>	<u>98</u>
Total	59	652

	<u>Type of Training</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Officer Training	Pre-Planning Town Hall	13	26
Department Drill	Firefighter II	7	603
Multi-Company Training	Mark 1 Kit Training	63	124
On-Line Training	Haz/Mat Refresher	5	10
	Bloodborne Pathogens – Recertification	10	20
	Confined Space	8	16

- On April 12 Fire Chief Chris Schroeder attended a Hometown Meeting conducted by Congressman John Larson. The meeting was held to provide feedback from local public safety officials relating to Homeland Security issues.

FIRE MARSHAL

The Fire Marshal's Office completed the following activities during the month of April.

Inspections	34
Inspection Follow-Ups	50
Plan Review	4
Job Site Inspections	0
Underground Tank Removal	0
Fire Investigations	2
Fire Alarm Trouble	2
Complaints	1
Haz/Mat	0
Bomb Threats	0
Blasting	10

- Fire Marshal Chris Schroeder and Fire Inspector Rusbarsky attended an 8-hour training session review of the new Connecticut Fire Safety Code.
- Fire Marshal Schroeder attended the Annual Connecticut Fire Marshal's Association Conference in Waterbury. The topic of the two day conference was Investigating Electrical Fires.
- An accidental fire on April 9th resulted in extensive damage to a single family home at 109 Michael Lane. No injuries were reported.

PUBLIC WORKS/FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

- The Maple Hill Avenue and Church Street rehabilitation project has been moving forward. All the necessary forms, certifications, etc. are being compiled with a target date of starting construction in early May.
- The American Public Works Association Spring Meeting was hosted at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.
- Meetings were held with counterparts from Wethersfield and Rocky Hill along with leadership from CRCOG to discuss mutual aid for Public Works. Many benefits were discussed and the beginnings of what a trial agreement should include were presented. CRCOG will be the lead agency for getting the initiative moving.
- The Public Works Director participated in a meeting with the Deming-Young Farm Foundation concerning the future status of the farm.
- The Health Department staff and Public Works staff met to discuss the upcoming transfer of the trash collection and landfill operations. Several more meetings will be necessary to prepare for the July 1st transfer.
- Engineering Department staff met with several development teams to review applications and plans that have been or are about to be submitted to the land use commissions.

Highway Department

- Sweeping of Town-owned parcels, streets, and schools continued throughout the month of April.
- Highway personnel spent several weeks organizing the landfill with a bulldozer.
- Test holes were dug on Tavener Circle to determine the quality of road base material. Tavener Circle is slated for reconstruction and test pit material data is used to determine reconstruction methodology.
- Personnel continued to work with the Traffic Division with sign installations, line striping and other projects.
- Assistance was given to the Board of Education by preparing a stone pad for a storage shed.
- Miscellaneous projects completed during the month included the repair of a hand rail at Town Hall, opening and cleaning of Town-maintained watercourses, pothole patching, curb repair, material hauling, catch basin cleaning and repairs.
- Mechanics completed the setup of new police cruisers, completed seasonal maintenance of all Parks and Grounds mowing equipment, as well as scheduled fleet maintenance and emergency repairs.

TOWN PLANNER

Work projects undertaken by Town Planner's office during April:

- Researched and verified Town easements and responsibility for sidewalk maintenance of privately owned sidewalks adjacent to the Municipal Parking Lot.
- Researched and confirmed the reservation of \$490,000 open space grant funds approved by the Department of Environmental Protection for the Town's purchase of Cedar Mountain Ridgeline parcels.
- Reviewed Young Farm open space grant requirements and collaborated with other Town departments regarding possible reuse options to further the Deming-Young Farmhouse Foundation's restoration efforts.
- Met with Premier Building and Development Corporation regarding subdivision bond completion compliance for Rockledge Drive, New Britain Avenue, Sunrise Estates and 711 Willard Avenue projects.
- Conducted Plan of Conservation and Development workshops, April 19th and April 26th, on the current plan's strategy recommendations and identified projects accomplished and what recommendations remain unfulfilled. Existing land use, municipal and open space properties, and vacant land maps were completed.
- G. Donovan Associates, the Commercial Façade Renovation Program contractor completed repairs to awning signage and light fixture brackets. Repair work will be monitored prior to release of retainage. Each property owner will receive from G. Donovan a project binder with product data and warranties.

Development Projects under review by the Town Plan and Zoning Commission and Planning staff:

- 2355 – 2371 Berlin Turnpike – redevelopment for new 5,200 sq. ft. McDonald's Restaurant.
- 295 Stamm Road – site development plan for 6,000 sq. ft. commercial building.
- 330 Alumni Road - special permit request for earth processing (rock crushing) equipment and storage of fill.
- East Cedar Street - Cedar Mountain property, 28 acres proposed for commercial development, five lot subdivision, hearing scheduled for May 24, 2006
- East Cedar Street and Russell Road – 9 acre parcel proposed for commercial uses, retail stores, motel, restaurant and gas station, staff review.
- Berlin Turnpike and Rowley Street – 14 acre parcel proposed for 135,000 sq. ft. retail warehouse food store, staff review.
- 2553 - 2557 Berlin Turnpike - 3 acre parcel proposed for motel use, staff review.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

- 12 permits were issued for townhouses in April (Building 46, Units 96, 104, 110, and 116 Sterling Drive; Building 32, Units 125, 131, 137, and 143 Sterling Drive; and Building 31, Units 101, 107, 113, and 119 Sterling Drive).
- Two permits were issued for the Town of Newington (Buildings at Ruth L. Chaffee Elementary School, 160 Superior Avenue, and Elizabeth Green Elementary School, 30 Thomas Street).
- Two Certificates of Occupancy were issued in April for single family residences (75 Waverly Drive and 16 Berkley Place).
- Building Inspectors completed a total of 236 inspections: Above Ceiling (3), Chimney (1), CO (38), Code (3), Damp proofing (1), Decks (1), Electrical (66), Final (1), Fire Place (1), Footings (22), Foundation (1), Framing (21), Gas Line (2), Gypsum (1), Hot Water Heaters (2), Insulation (7), Mechanical (14), Plumbing (14), Rough (30), Shed (1), Siding (1), Sill (5).

Seminars attended by the Building Inspectors for their continuing education credit were:

David Zwick	NEC 2005 4/19-20/06
Art Hanke	NEC 2005 4/22-23/06 Icynene Insulation, CBOA – General Meeting and Insulated Concrete Foundation Form 4/27/06

Richard Smith	2003 IECC (Residential and Commercial Provisions) 4/6/06
Pete Hobbs	2003 IECC (Residential and Commercial Provisions) 4/6/06 Icynene Insulation, CBOA – General Meeting and Insulated Concrete Foundation Form 4/27/06

Building/Renovation Permit Statistics

<u>Type of Permit</u>	<u>No. of Permits</u>	<u>Value of Permits</u>
Addition/Alterations	31	\$1,089,924
Deck	7	22,180
Demolition	2	24,000
Electrical	45	374,062
FSS/Sprinkler	1	7,000
Footing/Foundation	0	0
Fuel Tank	1	900
Garage/Shed	3	6,200
HVAC	18	171,544
New Commercial	0	0
New Residential	12	1,897,020
Plumbing	22	167,595
Pool	7	40,450
Roofing/Siding	26	185,652
Sign	4	14,000
Tent	0	0
Trailer	0	0
Total	179	\$4,000,527

Permit Value Comparison for April:

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Value of Permits Issued	\$4,000,527	\$2,095,696
Building Permit Fees Received	\$49,074	\$24,070
Other Income Fees	\$1,754	\$5,125
Building Permits Issued	179	194

Total Value of Permits and Permit Fees:

<u>2005-2006</u>		<u>2004-2005</u>	
<u>Value</u>	<u>Permit Fee</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Permit Fee</u>
\$29,402,058	\$430,985	\$35,457,449	\$354,800

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Routine inspections for the month consisted solely of food service establishments. All establishments were reissued Food Service Licenses for the licensing period of April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007. A new Food Service License was issued to Subway Restaurant in the O'Neil Plaza (Berlin Turnpike).
- During the month Health Department staff and I met with the Health Director of the Central Connecticut Health District to discuss transitioning of our public health services to the District effective June 1, 2006, with such transition complete by July 1, 2006.

- Staff from the Public Works and Health Departments and I held several meetings with representatives from Trash-Away, Inc. to discuss the Town's conversion to an automated curbside rubbish collection beginning the week of July 3, 2006.
- The new rubbish barrels, to be used by residents starting the week of July 3, are on display at the Town Hall (Building & Engineering wing) and at the library. Brochures explaining the new program were mailed to all residents impacted by the new curbside collection system. Town staff will be preparing press releases, and discussing this new program on the "Newington Daily News Show" and on the Town's website in order to educate residents.
- Department staff has been meeting with Public Works staff to coordinate the transfer of oversight of the Town's sanitation programs (rubbish collection, rubbish disposal, recycling, and town landfill operations) to the Public Works Department effective July 1, 2006.
- The Town's Environmental Quality Commission held its regular quarterly meeting on April 4. Discussions focused primarily on "Earth Day 2006" (April 22) and the MDC's Household HAZWASTE Collection Day (May 6). Commission members volunteer to assist at both events.
- On the evening of April 18, Robert Cosgrove, Public Health Coordinator, spoke to a gathering of neighborhood residents on radon gas testing and mitigation.
- On the morning of April 19, department staff participated in a drill at New Britain High School, dispensing "antibiotics" to affected populations "exposed to the plague bacteria" at simultaneous sporting events in New York and Boston.
- On April 20, the Town's Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) met to discuss a number of disaster response issues and to learn (from Police Chief Richard Mulhall) about our new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and its new communication equipment and capabilities. The LEPC members were very appreciative of the efforts to provide the Town with a first class facility for use by Town officials in responding to large-scale emergency situations.
- On Saturday morning, April 22, Public Health Inspector Greg Mattus supervised the Environmental Quality Commission's town-wide clean-up in recognition of "Earth Day 2006." Volunteers from the Commission, residents, and students participated in the clean-up from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.
- New complaints for the month numbered 12, none of any major significance.

Statistical Summary

	Monthly Totals	Year to Date	Last Year to Date
Food Establishment Inspections	26	151	199
Food Establishment Reinspections	9	26	24
Other Routine Inspections	1	19	15
New Complaints Received	12	55	68
➤ Complaint investigation made	20	63	66
➤ Notice of Violation issued by Public Health Coordinator	2	11	14
➤ Legal Order issued by Director of Health	1	2	2
➤ Complaint compliance recorded	14	47	49

HUMAN SERVICES

- Target Stores invited the department to apply for a small grant to enhance family violence prevention.
- Interviews were conducted with candidates for the part-time Contract Therapist position.
- Healthy Newington approved a strategic plan and set up two committees working toward implementation. This group is a coalition of stakeholders from organizations, Town departments, businesses and residents.
- ICAN (Interfaith Community Action) will train 12 volunteers on May 11 and be available to assist residents beginning May 15.

- Staff met with the Coordinator of U.M. Army, a one-week youth community service camp based out of Wethersfield. In July, the group will assist several residents identified by Social Workers as needing minor home repairs, painting and yard work.
- The annual Volunteer Recognition Program was held on April 26 with 60 people attending.
- Positive Youth Development activities included:
 - ✓ The Summer Youth Adventure Program brochure became available for youth entering 5th through 8th grade. Registration deadline is June 9.
 - ✓ The Spring SCORE after-school program offered such activities as animal rescue and horseback riding.
 - ✓ Another cycle of ROPE was completed with the 6th grade Health and Wellness classes at Martin Kellogg, John Wallace and St. Mary's Schools.
 - ✓ The High School Adventure Club journeyed down the Housatonic River during rain, sleet and snow for an interesting whitewater rafting trip. They are planning their next trip for May and looking forward to more inviting weather.
 - ✓ Eight high school youth are participating in the "New Me" Program aimed at enhancing their overall health and fitness through personal training.
 - ✓ The Newington Challenge Course is operational with a number of groups using the course including Wethersfield Youth and Social Services and Central Connecticut State University.
 - ✓ Four youth participated in community service projects.
 - ✓ A total of 116 youth participated in programs and activities during the month.
- The Youth and Family Counseling Program received 12 new referrals for therapy. Most came from parents, youth and schools.
- The active caseload was 45 with 12 inactive cases and 1 closed case. There were 81 counseling sessions conducted and 98 contacts with families or other agencies.
- Social Casework was provided to 78 active cases with 9 new referrals. Social Workers offer office and home visits and provide case management services.
- Social Workers continue to identify residents with financial assistance needs as a result of low or fixed income.
- Food Bank participants totaled 65, Clothing Closet 16 and Special Need approvals 13.

April 2006 Statistics

Selected Programs	FY 05-06 Undp. Total This Month	FY 05-06 Undp. Total Last Month	FY 05-06 Cum. Undp. Total YTD	FY 04-05 Cum. Undp. Total YTD
Youth and Family Counseling	45	50	142	191
Positive Youth Development	116	123	2,159	2,685
Youth Works (Job Bank)	8	6	43	54
Information and Referral	139	129	1,795	1,216
Social Casework Cases Under 55 = 36 Over 55 = 42	78	86	213	209
Food Bank Participants	65	96	830	853
Special Needs	13	12	119	124

SENIOR AND DISABLED CENTER

- Medicare Part D continued to dominate the attention of staff this month. The May 15th deadline for enrollment as well as notifications sent by the State to ConnPACE recipients increased the demand for assistance. Between Center staff and the CHOICES volunteer, more than 65 people received assistance with this complex program. In addition, a special counseling session was provided in conjunction with the regional CHOICES program and the Commission on Deaf and Hearing Impaired for older adults who are deaf.

- Special health education programs this month included “Later Life Anxiety: Strategies for Healthier Living” presented by Vicki Spiro Smith from the Mental Health Association of Connecticut and paid for by the NCAAA Caregiver Support Program and “Promoting Your Health Thru Movement” presented by Physical Therapist Adrienne Fils from Newington Health Care Center.
- Newington resident Sharon Leonard presented her annual Ukrainian Easter Egg class.
- Professional Photographer Alan Budney held several shoots onsite as part of an upcoming exhibit to feature older adults.
- Current membership at the Senior and Disabled Center is 3,489 with 26 new members.

Dial-A-Ride		Wellness Clinic		Senior Café
Trips	Miles	On-site	Off-site	Meals Served
1,246	2,848	166	12	944

Project Homeshare				
	Current Matches	Providers	Seekers	Counseling Calls
Newington	6	10	4	2
Other Comm.	4	37	54	25

PARKS AND RECREATION

Administration

- CEHP Inc. conducted interviews and focus groups for the Comprehensive Master Plan, including the Parks & Grounds crew, Town Planner, GIS Coordinator, Sports Council, and Board of Education. They also began site inspections of neighborhood parks.
- Wendy Rubin, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, was the guest speaker at the Senior Club on April 17, attended the Little League Opening Day ceremonies and dedication of Balducci Way, and the Kiwanis Big K Flea Market Opening Ceremonies.
- Staff presented the Statement of Need for creation of a West Meadow Cemetery Expansion Project Building Committee to Town Council.
- Superintendent Rubin met with various school staff members regarding playscape safety and inspections, synthetic field grant opportunities, and grounds maintenance issues.
- Ms. Rubin attended the final presentation by the UConn MPA students at the West Hartford Campus for their project that studied Parks and Recreation Department fees and customer satisfaction rates.
- Recreation Supervisor Kristine Kravontka made a presentation on “How to Design Effective Flyers and Brochures” at the “Lunch and Learn” program for Town Hall Employees.

Recreation

- This spring the department has 103 programs and 1,115 registrations.
- Secured sponsorship from the Kiwanis Club of Newington for Family Movie Night in August.
- Secured sponsorship from the GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Woman’s Club for a Touch-A-Truck program on Saturday, June 10.
- On Saturday, April 8th, the 41st Capitol District Badminton Tournament was held at the Mortensen Community Center with 49 entrants.
- On Saturday, April 29th, the 17th annual Fishing Derby was held sponsored by Attorney Alan Budney and David Charmut and the Trout Unlimited Group. Over 60 families experienced a beautiful Saturday morning at Mill Pond.
- The Water Safety Course was completed April 25.

- Swimming Lessons began on Wednesday, April 5, at the indoor pool. Once again, all spots for group lessons and semi-private lessons have been filled.
- Extensive planning for summer programs, the Extravaganza, and the golf tournament was underway.

Parks, Grounds and Cemeteries

- Division crews prepared school and Town baseball, softball, soccer, and lacrosse fields for play. The growth of lacrosse has increased the number of fields prepared and caused reshuffling of locations for various other sports.
- A number of bleachers have been restored to code compliance; several new bleachers were assembled and delivered to various sites.
- Irrigation repairs were in progress at Newington High School to repair damage from an apparent lightning strike.
- At Churchill Park the UNICCO patio was completed. Work began on the new playscape near the larger pavilion.
- 12 veteran's stones had been placed and all existing graves reseeded at the cemetery.

LIBRARY

- The kick-off for the *One Book 4 Towns* community-wide reading project featuring the book *The Good Wife* by Stuart O'Nan was held on April 5th at the Cora Belden Library in Rocky Hill. Mr. O'Nan and others read selections from the book, refreshments were served, and books were autographed. 70 people from the four towns attended. Book discussions began as scheduled in Newington, Berlin, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield. The finale will be held on May 25th at the Newington Town Council Chambers.
- The Children's Department received an award of merit for the *Governor's Summer Reading Challenge of 2005*. This award was given to five libraries in the state in recognition of excellent cooperation with the school system in their town.
- The selection of programs for adults during the month of April was very diverse with 564 people attending 12 programs. Highlights included a *World Cuisine* program: *New World Vegetarian with Ken Bergeron*, *Organizing Your Home & Getting Rid of Clutter*, *Professional Home Staging* and the Friday Night Jazz series with the *Rogerio Boccato Trio*, an evening of Brazilian jazz.
- Teens were able to showcase their talent at the library's 4th annual Teen Poetry Slam on April 4. More than 70 teens were in attendance.
- *OperaTunities*, a *Comic/Manga Workshop* and *Diary of a Spider* were some of the topics of programs sponsored by the Children's Department. Those, in conjunction with visits by Newington classes and outreach programs to preschool centers, totaled 68 programs to 2,105 children.
- All public libraries in the state were given a pass to state parks and forests as part of the "No Child Left Inside" program. The pass, which is valid only from April 15 – October 31, gives free admission or free parking to the pass holder and family. It is now available at the library.
- Topics of note that were researched this month included:
 - ✓ Where to donate used bicycles.
 - ✓ How to determine the length of the side of an octagon when you know the diameter.
 - ✓ The total expenditures for the U.S. Budget for 2006.
 - ✓ An anger management book for children.
 - ✓ How did Theodore Roosevelt help national parks?
- Circulation of materials was 34,503, a 1% increase from the previous year. An average of 739 people entered the library each day; 5,298 reference questions were answered and 1,515 items were processed and added to the collection.
- Other use statistics for the month of March include: the library's homepage - 8,017 hits; Internet computers - 2,218 hours logged; 1,357 items were checked out at the patron self-checkout station.