



# PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Monthly Report

QUALITY, EFFICIENT SERVICE ON BEHALF OF RESIDENTS, LOCAL, REGIONAL, STATE AND FEDERAL AUTHORITIES

MAY 2020



## School Construction Advances on Schedule

The Groton Middle School construction is on target to reach **'substantial completion'** by the end of June, with July and August planned for finishing work such as:

- \* **delivery and set-up of Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment, or "FFE"** (the critical needs which have no permanent connection to the structure or utilities), as well as
- \* **owner trainings**, and \* **teacher move-ins**.

Work at this point is coordinated floor-by-floor in each of the four building segments and among many items completed in May were: most flooring and plumbing, underground wiring and elevator installation, and 'binder paving' (the 'load bearing third of four layers) of driveways and parking lots.

Also notable in May was **initiation of the West Side and Cutler Schools projects**. For more information as well as middle school **video footage** and an **animation of the planned finish (see 'flyover')** -- visit the town website.

On the home page see the left column link to Groton 2020 School Construction, or enter:

[www.groton-ct.gov/depts/pubwks/SFICurrent](http://www.groton-ct.gov/depts/pubwks/SFICurrent)



Bus entrance corridor

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

### ENGINEERING

**Colin Kelly, P.E.**, was promoted from Civil Engineer to **Supervisor of Technical Services**. Colin received his B.S. in Engineering from the University of New Haven in 1989 and his professional engineering license in 1994. He has been with the Town for 26 years during which time he has covered a wide range of work, from drainage systems, site plans and sidewalk repairs, to Town building improvements and road and parking lot reconstruction.



The Engineering Division Supervisor oversees all technical and engineering services which include capital improvement program development, surveying, investigations, cost estimating for construction, contracting and contract administration; and preparation of maps, records, and construction status reports. Staff members are involved with construction of streets, sidewalks, bridges, sewers, buildings, and drainage structures. The Division also ensures proper construction of all public improvements undertaken by developers and builders, and acts as engineering consultants to all Town Departments and Commissions

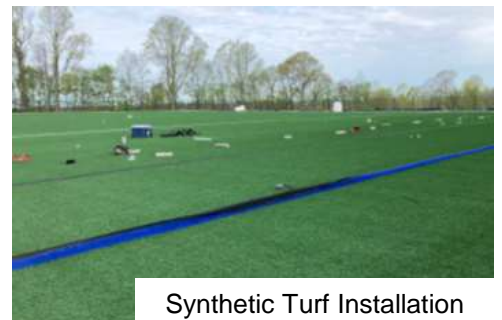
## The COVID-19 Response

### How will "The Stafford Act" assist the Town with our Covid-19 response?



The Stafford Act allows the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to channel funds via States to cities & towns to help protect public health and safety. This is organized through "Public Assistance" (or PA) Grants which provide **partial reimbursement for qualified expenses**. This means Public Works (and all Departments) must keep careful documentation of Covid-19 related spending. Normally, "natural disaster" PA Grants are weather related such as hurricanes and local in nature. Covid-19, however, will be only the second public health crisis in history for FEMA, and the first with potential to span the country. As a shore community Groton has benefited from past FEMA funds so is familiar with the process. Labor, materials, & contractor costs are being tracked and Personal Protective Equipment, Cleaning Supplies, and building changes are the eligible costs.

*The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief & Emergency Assistance Act, or "Stafford Act," came about in 1988 as the outcome of amendments to the 1974 Disaster Relief Act and first comprehensive review of FEMA, created in 1979 by Pres. Jimmy Carter. Congress wanted to encourage states and localities to create disaster preparedness plans and improve inter-governmental disaster coordination. They also wanted to encourage use of insurance and provide assistance for losses due to a disaster. It is named for the Vermont Senator who helped pass the law. FEMA actions are guided by The Federal Response Plan which links responsibilities across 28 federal agencies & non-governmental organizations ("NGOs"), such as the American Red Cross.*



Synthetic Turf Installation