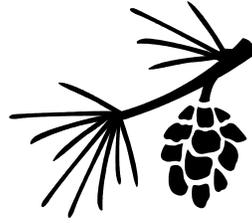


Town of Cornwall



Apart Together

Coronavirus / Covid-19 Update, Vol. 12 **April 23, 2020**

Hello,

We have been in the Covid fight for over five weeks now. There are positive signs that the protective measures people are taking are making a difference. I encourage everyone to keep on fighting this invisible enemy. This week I talked with a Cornwall resident who has been diagnosed with Covid. He said the virus is as tough as reported.

On Monday, Governor Lamont ordered all Connecticut residents to wear masks in public as confirmed cases (which are undercounted due to sparse testing) have doubled in CT and Litchfield County this past week. Connecticut reported Covid19 related deaths increased by almost 10% yesterday alone.

Masks are required for patrons of the Transfer Station who are also urged to have their refuse presorted for quicker drive throughs.

The response to Social Service Director Heather Dineen's wish list of last week was "exactly what we needed." Wonderfully increased donations to the Food & Fuel Fund (Box 97, Cornwall, CT 06753) have allowed for increased aid to townspeople struggling with a variety of issues.

Heather's update this week:

Connecticut has extended the deadline for applying for fuel/energy assistance until June 1, 2020. Assistance can be used to help with bills related to your primary heat source (firewood, oil/propane or electric), and the application only looks at your past month of income. Therefore, if you had a drop in income since March, you may now qualify for assistance for the State or other programs.

Additionally, Eversource is not currently turning off electric service due to non-payment, and accounts that were coded as "hardship" since November, will remain coded in this way indefinitely. That being said, they could change this policy at any time. If you would like assistance protecting your Eversource account, and arranging for a budget payment plan, please contact Heather.

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation and other funders in the area have released immediate relief funding to be used to help with rent/mortgage payments, heating and electric bills, and other essential expenses. If you are struggling to pay your bills, please contact Heather.

Donations are always welcome at the UCC staging area, 8 Bolton Hill Road, Cornwall. (Rear of Church)

This week's wish list is: Spaghetti (we have many boxes of other pastas); Canned Corn (sweet not cream); Canned Carrots; Canned Beans (kidney, pinto, black, etc. - we have many cases of chickpeas); Plain Oatmeal; Tomato Soup; Olive Oil; Vegetable Oil; Brownie Mix; White Sugar; Tissues; Toilet Paper; Dish Soap; Laundry Detergent

Cornwall Social Services - cornwallsocialservices@gmail.com, 860-671-9315 (call/text).

This Friday the Town is having its first budget hearing via Zoom @ 7:30 PM. The budget and contact information is available on www.CornwallCT.org

These are tough times for many people in Town, medically and financially. Cornwall has withstood fires, floods, tornados, the Depression and numerous wars. We are being tested again. I thank all of you who are helping us pass this test by taking actions large and small to help each other. Please stay tuned and connected.

Sincerely,

Gordon Ridgway
First Selectman
Town of Cornwall, CT

