

Town of Cornwall



Apart Together **Coronavirus / Covid-19 Update, Vol. 16** **May 21, 2020**

Dear Friends,

Memorial Day – one of the most important days on the Cornwall Calendar – will be different this year. We will not have the usual parade and ceremonies. Observations will be recorded and broadcast at www.cornwallct.org. Residents are encouraged to stay safe and visit our Veterans' graves that will be flagged by the V.F.W.

Connecticut has started to reopen businesses and activities that were closed for the pandemic. It is important that citizens continue to wear masks in public, limit gatherings to five people and other well publicized social distancing practices. New cases are still being confirmed in our area.

The Town is working on evaluating summer recreation programs including tennis and the Hammond Beach. Details to follow.

The Town's Social Service Agency remains busy with deliveries as does the donation box for the Food & Fuel Fund, Box 97, Cornwall, CT 06753. Heather's wish list and messages for this week includes:

- Black beans
- Kidney beans
- Peanut butter
- Spaghetti
- Macaroni
- Cake Mix
- Rice (white and brown)
- Ritz Crackers
- Lentils
- Cereal (any variety)

(Food donations can be dropped off at the rear of the UCC Church on Bolton Hill Rd. in Cornwall Village.)

A Message from Social Service Director Heather Dinneen:

The deadline to apply for Fuel Assistance is June 1, 2020. Assistance is available to help with your oil, propane, firewood or electric bills. To apply, contact Heather at cornwallsocialservices@gmail.com or via phone 860-671-9315 (call/text) to schedule an appointment. Video and phone appointments available.

Housatonic Framing will be displaying all of Lazlo's "While We Were Home" photographs. Stop in to see them and any purchase of a print will provide a \$25 donation to the Cornwall Food and Fuel Fund.

Check on Your Neighbor Campaign - as the weeks of time at home drag on, more and more of Cornwallians are becoming lonely (especially seniors who largely live alone). A reminder to reach out with a call, a note, or a socially distanced visit to your neighbors during this tough time. Additionally, we are asking that children (and adults too!) draw a picture or write a note to be distributed to Cornwall residents who might need a little extra cheer. You can drop drawings and notes to the drop box outside of CCS before May 29th.

Another agency that provides support for area victims of domestic violence is Women's Support Services (WSS). Virginia Gold the WSS program director sends us:

As the State of CT cautiously enters phase 1 of re-opening business and recreation options, we here at Women's Support Services wanted to touch base. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we are still operating at full (remote) capacity, and want to ensure that all of our communities know we are available to any individual or family who needs support to address violence in their home. What that means is that although our offices have been physically closed to reflect the state recommendations, all of our staff are fully accessible for all services.

- All of our advocates continue to be available via our **office (860-364-1080)** or **hotline (860-364-1900)** numbers **24 hours a day, 7 days / week**.
- Anyone who is specifically facing legal situations can access our **court advocate (860-318-6275)** for guidance and safety planning support, especially at this time as the court system access is significantly reduced and cases are being handled on a priority basis only.
- Advocates and Community Educators have also been reaching out to your town social workers, local medical and service providers, and Region 1 school staff. We want to ensure strong collaboration and ease of accessibility for our resources and state-wide referral network - WSS is aware that many are looking for support around specific economic, childcare, or education struggles that have been added into already difficult situations.

When staying home does NOT mean staying safe for someone, WSS continues to be available to safety plan and provide alternative options. We are committed to identifying and providing safer options and support for all residents of our towns, at any time.

Please feel free to reach out to me or the WSS staff with any questions.

Also, people having trouble filing unemployment claims are urged to contact State Representative Maria Horn (Maria.Horn@cga.ct.gov) or State Senator Craig Minor (Craig.Minor@cga.ct.gov) whose offices have a direct line to the Connecticut Department of Labor.

I hope you and your family have an opportunity to enjoy a pleasant time outdoors and contemplate Memorial Day. Even if sometimes we are apart more than we would like, we are together.

Sincerely,

Gordon Ridgway
First Selectman
Town of Cornwall, CT