

# TOWN OF SUFFIELD

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www.SuffieldCT.gov



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April 6, 2020

Dear Suffield Community & Town Employees,

As confirmed cases of COVID-19 have made their way into our community, it has been our desire to apprise residents quickly. In our last update, we stated, “the Town will not report on each confirmed case going forward.” We felt the need to make this statement because we anticipate numbers to continue to climb at an accelerated pace. Additionally, it has been the Town’s policy to report only cases verified by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CTDPH) in coordination with their regional representative, the North Central District Health Department (NCDHD). Given the number of cases throughout the state, that reporting process has slowed. With confirmations increasing and reporting slowed, coupled with the frustration of reconciling figures with external sources, we want to emphasize this important message to residents:

***Specific numbers – while so very important to each individual they represent - are secondary to reporting the fact that the virus is highly contagious and widely disseminating in our town. Please continue to do what is needed to slow the rate at which people become exposed and ill.***

We have added confirmed Suffield numbers as the first bullet point item within the Town Updates section on the [Emergency Alert](#) page. Residents can access these figures directly via the [CTDPH website](#) under TEST DATA. Additionally, the Department of Geography at UCONN created a helpful [map](#) of the state with confirmed COVID-19 cases by town which is also included on the website. As of April 5, 2020, CTDPH reports Suffield with 20 confirmed cases.

## **Town Budget**

One of our top priorities right now, after public and employee health and safety, is to assure the fiscal health of the Town of Suffield. Some residents will lose their jobs as a result of this pandemic and we feel a tremendous responsibility now more than ever to be fiscally conservative with our taxpayer dollars. It was clear from the Board of Finance meeting held via teleconference this past Monday that this is a shared priority.

To that end, all Town department heads were given direction as follows:

- Cease any nonessential expenditures for the remainder of current fiscal year

- Maintain meticulous record-keeping for COVID-19 expenses for potential reimbursement by State/Federal government
- Review proposed fiscal year 20/21 department budget for unnecessary or additional operating or capital expenditures due to remote working and COVID-19

Additional details on the budget and its adoption process will be shared as soon as available. Residents are welcome to attend BOF budget meetings via teleconference – see agenda for call in information. Public comments on fiscal year 20/21 budget may be emailed to [budget2021@suffieldct.gov](mailto:budget2021@suffieldct.gov)

Continue to visit the [Emergency Alert](#) page for new information – this is the first place we post followed by other means. Included below are new updates and happenings.

### **Gratitude**

#### **Senior Center Grab & Go Lunch**

A big THANK YOU to Director Paula Pascoe and the staff of the Senior Center for her innovative Grab & Go lunches which ensure our beloved seniors are receiving on a daily basis, a healthy meal, warm smile and inspirational note of support. Paula has further enhanced the program by offering delivery to those seniors unable to leave their homes. The last full week of meals numbered 170! These services, in addition to the 24/7/365 support provided by Suffield Community Aid (the Town’s social services arm) are making sure our beloved seniors and most vulnerable are cared for and loved. On behalf of the Town, we are so grateful for the kindness shared during this difficult time with our senior Moms, Dads, Grandparents, neighbors and friends.

### **Community Kindness**

#### **Spaulding & McAlister Teacher Parade**

Tuesday, April 7, 2020 1 – 3 p.m.

[Flyer](#)

### **Front Steps Project**

Resident, local teacher and photographer Rob Faber of RJ Photography initiated Suffield’s version of the Front Steps Project. Rob’s photos capture the families of Suffield in this unprecedented moment in time while encouraging donations to benefit Suffield Community Aid. Check out some of his beautiful work capturing love, happiness and hope on the home page banner of the [Town website](#). Thank you for this tremendous and generous effort for the benefit of our community. Read more about the project in The Hartford Courant article: [“To help bring his community together during self-isolation, one Connecticut man is turning to photography with the Suffield Front Steps Project.”](#)

### **First Responder Support**

Suffield resident Kristina Hallett, Ph.D. offered first responders support with free access to this helpful resource: <https://well-beingacademy.thinkific.com/courses/Resilience-for-first-responders>.

## **Donations of PPE**

In our March 28, 2020 communication, we asked for PPE donations on behalf of Emergency Management. To nobody's surprise, Suffield's community response has been amazing. THANK YOU Suffield for your generous donations to keep our first responders safe. Donations have been disseminated to Suffield House and other locations where needed. Special appreciation to our partners at Suffield Public Schools who donated face masks (N95), goggles, gloves, thermometers and disinfecting atomizer foggers with disinfectant spray.

## **Housing Authority**

More than 70 of the residents at Suffield's Housing Authority made "Hearts for Healthcare" and "Sunshines for Essential Workers" to show their gratitude and support for those in the community working for all of us. The artwork and thank you notes, displayed on doors and intended to bring a smile to others, also brightened the spirits of Housing Authority residents and alleviated their sense of helplessness.

## **Town of Suffield/Municipal Partners:**

- **Boards & Commission**
  - [Teleconference Guidelines for Boards & Commissions](#)
- **Sunrise Park Pavilion**
  - All event reservations for month of April cancelled
- **Suffield Community Aid**
  - [Modified Meals on Wheels effective 4-6-2020](#)
- **Fire Department** enhancements for improved safety
  - Sanitized all apparatus and outfitted with hand sanitizer
  - Secured additional PPE
  - Published directives and standard operating procedures limiting number of personnel entering structures for fire alarm investigations
  - Monitoring career staff for signs of illness when reporting for duty
  - Limited members from congregating or extended visits to stations
  - Practicing social distancing as practical within station and on emergency scenes
  - Burn permits handled online and over phone
- **Police Department** enhancements for improved safety since last update
  - Employee "pre work" screening process for signs of illness implemented
- **Kent Memorial Library**
  - [Digital Resources](#)
- **Senior Center**
  - **Delivery Options Now Available:**  
Offered ONLY to seniors unable to walk to Senior Center or who do not have transportation.
    - **Grab & Go Meals**
      - Delivery begins 12:30 p.m.
      - Senior encouraged to reserve meals for week
      - No money will be collected
      - Senior must be home at time of delivery

- Driver will leave meal(s) on front step
  - **Prescriptions**
    - Prescriptions must be pre-paid; Senior Center not responsible for payment
    - Contact 860-668-8830
- **WPCA**
  - Requests residents to throw disinfectant wipes/"flushable wipes"/paper towels in trash – items **SHOULD NOT BE FLUSHED**
  - [Related flyer](#)

### **Local Business**

- **Federal Resources**
  - [US Small Business Association's Economic Injury Disaster Loan \(EIDL\)](#)
    - Provides loan advances up to \$10,000
    - Economic relief to businesses currently experiencing temporary loss of revenue
    - Funds made available within three days of successful application
    - Loan advance will not have to be repaid
  - [The Paycheck Protection Program](#)
    - Provides loan to keep employees on payroll
    - Loan may be forgivable provided certain criteria met
- **State Resources**
  - <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Information-For/Business-Resources>
- **The Suffield House** seeks immediate staff
  - Emergency COVID-19 hourly rates apply as follows:  
Housekeepers and laundry personnel: \$30/hr  
Certified Nursing Assistants: \$35/hr  
Licensed Practical Nurses: \$46/hr  
Registered Nurses: \$54/hr  
Registered Nurse Supervisors: \$64/hr
  - All interested applicants should contact Kim Stanton at [kstanton@suffieldhouse.com](mailto:kstanton@suffieldhouse.com)
  - Emergency COVID-19 rate shall remain in effect for month of April, 2020, to be evaluated biweekly
- [List of Restaurants Offering Takeout](#)
- [List of Companies Offering Free Internet Service & Hot Spots, and Waived Late Fees](#)
- **COX**
  - [Closure of Public Access Facility to the Public](#)
  - [Latest News](#)

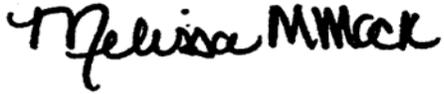
We understand at this time that residents are eager to help and share information with their neighbors. However, we urge those well-meaning individuals to honor the following necessary protocols:

- Allow Emergency Management to collect needed items and distribute as warranted.
- Entrust the State and Town to communicate important, **verified** information to the public.
- Help by sharing these official notifications, emails and posts with neighbors and friends.

- Continue to self-isolate and encourage others to do so as well.

Continue to take care of each other and be well.

Sincerely,



Melissa M. Mack  
First Selectman

Sincerely,



John Spencer  
Director, Emergency Management

cc: Board of Selectmen