

# TOWN OF SUFFIELD

83 Mountain Road, Suffield, Connecticut 06078  
www.SuffieldCT.gov

Melissa M. Mack  
First Selectman  
MMack@SuffieldCT.Gov  
860-668-3838



April 14, 2020

Dear Suffield Community & Town Employees,

As we continue to try and keep residents updated regarding COVID-19 with verified information, we want to emphasize the lag time in reporting that was mentioned in our last update. Confirmed cases continue to remain fluid and can vary by source which requires further reconciliation. As of late this afternoon, the CTDPH reports 41 confirmed cases in Suffield with the following additional details provided:

- 50% of cases at elderly/nursing facilities
- 50% spread throughout community; not centrally located to any specific geographic area
- Age range: early 20's to late 90's
- Age average: 50-60's
- Youngest: 20's

This data reinforces the need for ALL residents to abide by social distancing policies. As of today, we can also confirm Suffield has lost nine of our neighbors to the virus. Please keep these families in your prayers.

## **Public Safety - Wearing Face Masks in Public**

The [Centers for Disease Control](#) recently endorsed the use of simple cloth face coverings in public. This new recommendation is just one of many measures and does not take away from the need for the public to continue social distancing and to stay at home except for essential business.

## **Suffield Community Aid – Assisting All Suffield Residents Currently In Need**

It can be said that what is truly valuable only comes into focus during times of crisis. This is especially true of [Suffield Community Aid \(SCA\)](#) - *your local safety net* - and the Town of Suffield's chosen partner to deliver vital resources.

The Town entrusts and contracts with SCA annually to provide supportive health and social services to our residents during periods of need. Serving as that very safety net, SCA's goal is to preserve and maintain the dignity and lifestyle of individuals and families during hardships.

Right now, SCA stands ready to assist those struggling with the financial impact of Covid-19. While SCA works continuously with our vulnerable populations, it is also available to ANY resident experiencing temporary needs and is done so in a strictly confidential manner. We ask that residents take advantage of this truly valuable service that the Town of Suffield offers every day, but is particularly noteworthy during this current challenge. We encourage residents to reach out for a helping hand at 860-668-1986.

### **2020 Census**

Please take a moment to fill out the [2020 Census](#) online, by phone or by mail. The data collected determines how federal dollars make their way into our community – including emergency aid dollars for events like the pandemic we are now experiencing. Your participation matters!

[Attorney General Tong, Lt. Gov. Bysiewicz and DCP Commissioner Seagull Warn Residents of Scam Connecting 2020 Census to Future Coronavirus Stimulus Checks](#)

### **CVS – Over the Phone Credit Card Use**

We received word that residents who were unable to pick up prescriptions/groceries themselves were having difficulty using credit cards to pay for items over the phone. In speaking with CVS corporate, the retailer confirmed its amended policy during the crisis which permits over the phone credit card payments to better serve vulnerable populations. This policy change has now been reiterated to our local CVS. Thank you to those who brought the matter to our attention.

### **Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program**

COVID-19 has put additional financial pressures on our local charities and non-profits who find themselves in need while trying to help individuals and families in need. Now is a great time for businesses that are able, to consider donating to local charities and non-profits. The Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Tax Credit Program provides funding for municipal and tax exempt (non-profit) organizations by providing a corporation business tax credit for cash contributions to these entities. Businesses can receive a credit of 60% of their approved contribution to certain programs or up to 100% for certain energy conservation programs approved by the Department of Revenue Services. Limitations apply. Contact Director of Planning & Development, [Bill Hawkins](#) for additional help.

Additional Resources:

- [Connecticut Department of Revenue Services](#)
- [NAA Publication](#)

## **Presidential Primaries**

The Presidential Primaries are currently delayed until June 2, 2020. Will they be cancelled altogether? Not yet. As long as there are multiple candidates on the ballot, a primary will be held. There are three candidates on the Democratic ballot: Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. On the Republican ballot there are two candidates: Roque "Rocky" De La Fuente and Donald Trump. Some of the candidates have suspended their campaigns, but have not requested removal from the ballot. Candidates have until 12 noon on Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup> to submit a letter requesting removal of their names from the ballot. Stay tuned for additional voter information.

## **Assessor's Office Seeks Exterior Home Photos to Update Database**

The Assessor's office requests exterior photos of homes to update their database. These photos were not taken by the vendor during the 2018 Revaluation in order to reduce project costs yet many homes changed since photos were last taken in 2008. This is the perfect time of year to take a photo since trees in the front yard are not in bloom so houses are more visible. Thank you in advance for help with this worthwhile project.

### Photo Guidelines:

- Do not include people or license plates in picture – but pets allowed!
- Send picture as full size image
- Don't forget to include address, ideally in subject line
- Email photos to [Lisa Trase](#)
- Offer to take photo of neighbor's home if they are unable to email

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

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

- Building Department
  - [Online Permitting](#) now available!
- Human Resources
  - [COVID-19 Hotline for First Responders](#)
  - [Safe Workplace Rules for Essential Employers](#)
  - [CDC Wash Your Hands Poster](#)

## **Federal, State & Local:**

- Rural Development, US Department of Agriculture
  - [Opportunities for Immediate Relief](#)
  - [Summary of Programs](#)
  - [Acronyms](#)

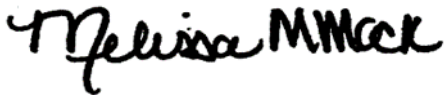
- Veterans, PenFed Foundation
  - [COVID-19 Emergency Financial Relief Program](#)
- First Responders, State of Connecticut
  - [COVID-19 Hotline for First Responders](#)
- Senator Murphy
  - [COVID-19 Relief & FAQs](#)
- Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM)
  - [COVID-19 Map Tool](#)

**Local Business**

- CVS – see message above
- [CT Small Business Development Center](#)

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