Hello Waterford Seniors,

I hope this letter finds you safe at home and knowing how much we appreciate your efforts to socially distance during this challenging time. We are currently in the acceleration phase of the pandemic and expect to see increases in the number of Waterford residents who contract COVID-19.

Please know that I am thinking about every family in Waterford who is living in these uncertain times, I have great appreciation for our health professionals who are working around the clock, and am thankful to our first responders who are on the front lines and continue to protect our community during this national health emergency.

The outpouring of kindness and support our community is showing to one another is inspiring. On that note, I am encouraging residents who wish to help other residents who have experienced financial hardship as a result of the virus, please call Dani Gorman, Director of Waterford Youth and Family Services directly at 860-444-2578. She will be able to assist.

As many of you may have seen on NBC CT News or Facebook, or heard my “robo call” to all Waterford residents, I signed an Emergency Order on March 30th closing ALL town public recreational spaces, beaches and parks in Waterford. I realize some people are frustrated and disappointed, however, I have an obligation to do everything I can to protect the health and safety of our residents. This will go a long way towards social distancing and Waterford’s ability to protect everyone in our community. By reducing people congregating in groups, we will reduce pressure on our first responders and healthcare professionals.

I want to make a special request to parents of teenagers and young adults. I am asking for all parents to have a serious conversation with their children, if you haven't already, about the importance of staying home and not gathering with members outside of your household. It is all of our civic responsibility to stop the spread of this deadly virus. We need your help.

Recently, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved Connecticut’s request for a major disaster declaration, which releases the federal funding needed to fight the COVID-19 pandemic as it continues its spread across Connecticut and New London County. We will be working with our congressional delegation to ensure that all possible aid and relief is made available to those individuals and businesses in Waterford who need it. Please know we are prepared and we are committed to your safety. We are just a phone call away, so please call us or if you are on Facebook, please like and follow my “Rob Brule Waterford Selectman” page for daily updates.

I will leave you with this quote, “Sometimes, we’re tested, not to show our weakness, but to discover our strength.” Be assured, We WILL get through this together! We ARE Waterford Strong!

Sincerely,

Rob Brule
First Selectman

#Unityinourcommunity
OFFICE STAFF:
Director Lisa and Assistant Director Kathy are staffing the office Monday through Friday to take calls, messages and emails. We also continue to work on projects, grants, providing resources and referrals to those in need and wellness checks. Continued collaboration with other town departments is also essential at this time Donna & Barb are standing by on the home front and trying to stay healthy and strong. We are all doing well and want you to know how much we miss each one of you! The community Center has been cleaned and sanitized and remains closed at this time. Waterford is doing everything possible to encourage social distancing and illness prevention. If you need anything, please don’t hesitate to reach out to us. We love hearing from you! 860-444-5839

TRANSPORTATION:
You are probably well aware that our town buses are not running at this time. We have had to make tough decisions in the wake of this terrible virus. We always practice cleanliness and sanitary operation of our buses, however, due to the need to provide social distancing, we cannot operate our transportation at this time. As soon as possible we will be up and running again, We will let you know when we resume our transportation. In the meantime, you can contact ECTC at 860-848-5910 to access medical transportation and schedule appointments. If you have signed up and paid $24 you have 12 round trip rides available. ECTC will know how many rides you have left. Be sure to contact your doctor prior to your appointment. Many are rescheduling and canceling routine visits.

FOOD & NUTRITION:
Meals on Wheels deliveries continue to go out to homebound seniors 60 and over. Our dedicated drivers continue to deliver meals with safeguards in place to avoid or minimize contact with recipients. Please call TVCCA if you are interested in getting home delivered meals at 860-885-2745

Community Café Meals for those who typically have lunch at our café and rely on our transportation, TVCCA has been providing a frozen meal drop option. On Wednesdays, 5 frozen meals are delivered. This delivery is also a no-contact drop-off for the safety of both the recipient and the staff. You can call our café manager, Manuela Vazquez with any questions: 860-444-5939 T-F mornings.

Interfaith Food Pantry in town is located at youth services. The town has been doing weekly food pickups for Waterford residents in need. If you’d like to contribute or are in need please contact Waterford Youth and Family Services at 860-444-5848
If you are interested in receiving home delivered meals please call: TVCCA Meals on Wheels @ 860-885-2745

We’ve been receiving quite a few calls about the government stimulus checks. Here is what we know: If you are not required to file a tax return the IRS will use your Social Security statement to determine your eligibility for the stimulus. Most social security recipients, who do not have to file taxes, will receive $1,200. We do not know when these deposits will be made.

Please go online at IRS.gov/coronavirus if you have questions about stimulus payments.

Free Tax preparations have been cancelled at this time. We have not been informed of any rescheduling. You may call AARP to get an update at 1-888-227-7669. Free Tax prep is available online at www.myfreetaxes.com. Remember the deadline to file has been extended to July 15, 2020.

Now is a great time to be working on art work for our annual art show! We hope to have it in June. If not in June, we will still be having it at some point! While you are home, get creative! Draw, paint, color, take photos, cross stitch, quilt, make jewelry. We will show off all of the creations you make this year! So, it’s a great time to get busy on your pieces!
Town Phone Numbers to Assist:
Senior Services: 860-444-5839
Recreation & Parks: 860-444-5881
Youth & Family Services: 860-444-5848
Library: 860-444-5805
Public Works: 860-444-5864

COVID-19 Hot Lines:
Hartford Health Group: 833-621-0600
Yale – New Haven Hospitals: 833-275-9644

We hope to be able to resume our exercise classes by the week of July 6, 2020. Please stay tuned!

Please note: all Senior Service programs and services have been cancelled through the end of April, 2020. Please call us if you are in need! 860-444-5839

Senior Service activities and programs are cancelled until further notice and include:
- Transportation
- Tax Preparation
- Café
- Special Lunches
- BINGO
- Juke Box BINGO
- Garden meeting
- Cook Well
- Trips - All Day trips have been cancelled through 6/30/20
- Medicare counselling appointments
- Energy / Renters Rebate appointments
- All group activities

Things we are optimistic about:
- Seeing all of you again!!!
- The annual WSS picnic 6/24/20
- Dog Days of Summer Luncheon 8/13/20
- National Senior Center Month in September with Juke Box Bingo!
- Volunteer luncheon, October 2020
- Medicare Boot Camp 10/20/20
- AARP smart driver 10/22/20
- Veterans Day celebration, November 2020

*Dates and activities are subject to change

Call a friend, take a walk, read a book, write a poem, dance!
Take a deep breath and “RELAX”

- **Regroup:** Make a list of things to accomplish and prioritize it.
- **Eat healthy foods:** Trans fats increase irritability.
- **Laugh:** It eases stress!
- **Arrange to be active:** Exercise lifts your mood.
- **Examine your sleep habits:** Get 7-8 hours of rest each night.

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**The AARP smart driver course scheduled for April 23, 2020 has been rescheduled to October 22, 2020 1-5pm**

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Complete the following “Wacky Wordies” puzzle and return it, or just your answers, to us by mail or email (kpierce@waterfordct.org) and we will enter your name into a drawing for a special prize! We will draw a winner on May 7, 2020!

**Wacky Wordies**

Each of the puzzles below provides a visual representation of a common word or phrase. Can you decipher the clues in each puzzle box?

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The Loop - Special Edition

Waterford Emergency Management Team, Waterford Police Department, EMS, Town Employees, Rec & Park, Youth & Family Services, Senior Services, Library, DPW, Town Hall staff, teachers, custodians, food service, school administrators, BOE, Meals on Wheels drivers and kitchen staff, Waterford businesses & food establishments, first responders, healthcare professionals, doctors and nurses, all of whom help protect and serve our community! Now more than ever we are grateful for your service and we say “THANK YOU”!

The Town of Waterford does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age or disability. Individuals with disabilities who require modifications to participate in Town of Waterford (TOW) sponsored programs and activities or to access TOW services or goods are asked to submit their request with 48 hours notice to the Town’s ADA Coordinator. Reasonable modifications will be made on a case by case basis. Documentation may be required when requesting modifications.

FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, THIS PUBLICATION CAN BE PROVIDED IN ALTERNATE FORMATS.

#stayhomestaysafe