



## Woodbridge Responds to Coronavirus

I will begin by thanking our wonderful town staff and residents for being flexible and working together as we navigate through this global crisis.

These are unprecedented times and the situation is changing rapidly. I am so impressed with how resolute and resilient Woodbridge residents are.



### This is what the Town has been doing:

Town buildings have been closed to the public since March 13, and most staff are working remotely. Many services that the Town provides are available online or via phone (see story below for details). Our Town website is a helpful resource for most issues, [woodbridgect.org](http://woodbridgect.org).

I have been convening frequent department head meetings via a conference call, and I am in constant communication with staff and outside agencies, including leaders from the state and federal government.

We continue to make difficult decisions and I suspect things will only get harder before they improve. Please remember these decisions are made to keep everyone healthy.

We are following the Governor's executive orders regarding essential businesses and currently our buildings will remain closed and programs canceled through April 22.

We have a new page on our town website where we are centralizing local information related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Visit [woodbridgect.org/COVID19](http://woodbridgect.org/COVID19) for details.

### This is what YOU can do:

It is imperative that everyone practice social distancing; stay at least 6 feet away from people, avoid gatherings and only leave home when necessary. Do not visit friends or family unless there is an urgent need for health or safety and avoid or limit interactions between the young and the elderly.

Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds and clean high-touch surfaces in your home daily with Lysol or a solution of four teaspoons bleach per quart of water.

Misinformation is dangerous. Please rely on trusted sources of information: [cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://cdc.gov/coronavirus) for health information and guidance, [ct.gov/coronavirus](http://ct.gov/coronavirus) for state updates and [woodbridgect.org/covid19](http://woodbridgect.org/covid19) for local news. More guidance can be found on our health district website,

Quinnipiack Valley Health District, [qvhd.org](http://qvhd.org).

Also remember to be safe at our town parks, fields and playgrounds. To date, the CDC has not received any reports of pets or other animals becoming sick or spreading COVID-19. However, since animals can spread other diseases to people, it's always a good idea to wash your hands after being around animals.

Residents with general questions on Coronavirus can call 2-1-1 or text "CTCOVID" to 898211. **Anyone experiencing symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath) is strongly urged to contact their medical provider to seek treatment.**

Please keep our local businesses in mind during these uncertain times. On the COVID-19 page you will also find a round-up of local businesses continuing to operate. The list is being updated as new information comes in. If your business has something to add, please get in touch with Betsy Yagla at [byagla@woodbridgect.org](mailto:byagla@woodbridgect.org).

We are uncertain how long this may continue. As we receive information, we will pass it along.

Remember, we are in this TOGETHER, and we are here to help you. I ask that you do everything you can to stay healthy and safe. Thank you Woodbridge!

—First Selectman Beth Heller

## Town Business You Can Do From Home

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, residents are encouraged to conduct more business online or remotely:

- Human Services will assist with delivered meals, food pantry items and limited transportation (details on page 3).
- Residents who need to pay taxes may do so online with a credit card (a 2.5% fee is applied by the vendor). Residents may also access their income tax information on the Tax Collector's page of the Town website. Click "check your tax payment status," enter your name and click the "IRS payment record" button.
- Starting April 1 all building permits will be available on the Town's website (details on page 2).

- Qualifying families in need of food assistance may call the Woodbridge Food and Fuel pantry at 203-389-3429.
- The Presidential Primary is rescheduled for June 2 and new voter registration deadlines have not been announced. You may register to vote at [voterregistration.ct.gov](http://voterregistration.ct.gov) and unaffiliated voters may register with a party online or via mail. Check the Town website for deadline updates. Absentee ballots are available through a link on the Town Clerk's webpage.
- Land records at the Town Clerk's office are available online and recordings may be done by mail.
- Assessment information and maps are available online. To access information, visit [woodbridgect.org](http://woodbridgect.org).



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## New! Building Permits Online

As of April 1, homeowners and contractors will have to submit building-related and zoning permit applications through the new View Point Online Permitting program: [woodridgect.viewpointcloud.com](http://woodridgect.viewpointcloud.com).

View Point will automatically link applications to Woodbridge's Tax Office and Fire Marshal, and Quinnipiac Valley Health District for appropriate signoffs. Also, View Point enables the Building Dept. staff to review online applications, email applicants if additional information is required, and electronically issue approved permits and Certificates of Approval or Occupancy.

To use View Point an email address and User ID are needed. Steps are explained once the View Point link is opened. Credit card or

e-check may be used to pay for online applications. View Point will also be available in the Building Office for individuals to submit online permit applications. Cash, credit card or check will be accepted as payment in the office.

Historical building permit data from July 2008 will be available to view online. Historical data, prior to July 2008, is available to the public in the Building Dept.

The Building Dept. Office is open Mon. through Fri., 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Please call 203-389-3419 to schedule an appointment or inspection with the Building Official. For additional details, please view the Town website at: [woodridgect.org/170/Building-Department](http://woodridgect.org/170/Building-Department).

## Small City Loans Available

The State of Connecticut Small Cities Housing Rehabilitation Program, which has provided interest-free loans to qualified Woodbridge residents, is again available. Loans may be used to replace furnaces, roofs, windows, and septic systems as well as ADA modification, such as entrance ramps and bathroom modifications.

To be eligible, homeowners must meet the following requirements: (1) gross annual income cannot exceed \$52,850 for a single household or \$75,500 for a household of four; (2) have at least 10%

equity in the home; (3) be up to date on municipal taxes; and (4) have homeowners insurance.

A key program benefit is that there is no out-of-pocket expense for this 0% interest loan and payment is not due until the house changes title. The program also allows the Town to establish a revolving loan fund in perpetuity to provide assistance to additional residents who need home repairs.

For additional loan information, please call Tax Collector Pat Crisco at 203-389-3425.

## Renter's Rebate Program

Applications for the Renter's Rebate Program may be filed with the Town's Assessor between April 1 and Oct. 1, 2020. To be eligible for this program, Woodbridge residents must:

- have turned age 65 on or before Dec. 31, 2019. (Individuals receiving Social Security Disability must be 18 or older and meet requirements below.)
- be full-time Woodbridge residents.

- earn income not greater than \$37,000 for a single person or \$45,100 for a married couple.

Proof of 2019 income and Social Security earnings are required along with copies of receipts or cancelled checks for all rent and utilities (excluding phone and cable) paid in 2019.

Applications are available at the Assessor's Office Mon. through Fri. between 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Call 203-389-3416 with questions.

## Human Services: Transportation and Food

The Woodbridge Center is temporarily closed for all programming with the exception of essential transportation needs. Call 203-389-3430 to discuss specific needs.

Woodbridge seniors may also reserve fresh, flash-frozen, prepared meals which will be delivered to your home on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cost for these meals is \$4 and they must be reserved 24 hours prior. All current services are subject to change.

Woodbridge Human Services will assist qualifying seniors and families in need with non-perishable food items from the food pantry as well as gift cards to Stop & Shop for perishable items. Please call 203-389-3429 to speak with a member of the staff.

Monetary contributions and gift cards are needed. Donations of canned fruit, Parmalat milk, cereal, tuna, canned chicken, toilet paper and other non-perishable items are welcome. Please make sure all donated items are not

expired. Call 203-389-3429 to arrange a drop-off appointment.

The Annual Volunteer Tea has been postponed.

Woodbridge Youth Services programs including Babysitter Training are cancelled until further notice. Please continue to send nominations for the **First Selectman's Youth Award**, as the deadline is extended until April 30. See the Town's website for the nomination form and details or call 203-389-3429.

## The Library Is Accessible From Home!

While the library remains closed to the public, staff is working remotely to provide services to residents.

Books that were waiting to be picked up prior to the library's closure are still waiting on the shelves and will be kept here until further notice. Books will not be placed on physical items as all LION libraries are closed.

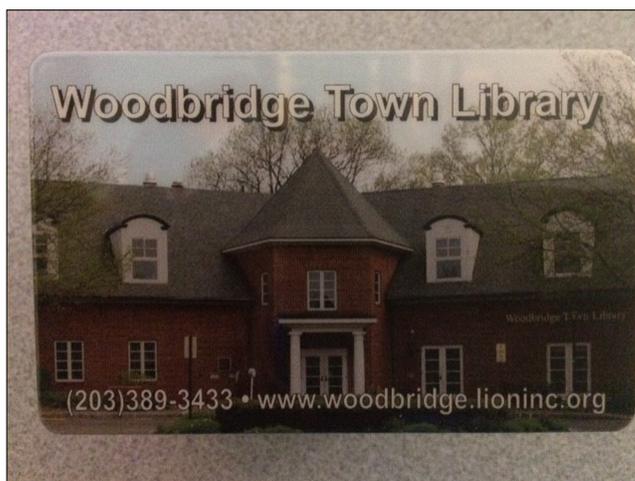
All library card expiration dates have been extended, and the fine threshold for digital content has been raised from \$25 to \$100. You can access

all digital content at home without fear of being blocked out.

All physical materials currently checked out will be extended through May 1. No fines will be charged.

April programs have been cancelled and many will be re-scheduled once an opening date is determined. Online museum pass reservations are temporarily not available.

Updates and other library news will be posted on our website and on our Facebook page. Please check back often, especially for fun links and other things to keep you entertained and informed!



If you do not have a library card, you may request one via email:

[askus@woodbridgetownlibrary.org](mailto:askus@woodbridgetownlibrary.org).

Your library card number will be needed for the following:

- Access digital resources including ebooks, movies, music, and more through the Library website: [www.woodbridge.lioninc.org/digital-media](http://www.woodbridge.lioninc.org/digital-media).
- Search the Consumer Reports database and read articles from editions of the magazine.
- View the CT State Library's website, [researchitct.org](http://researchitct.org), which gives CT state residents use of informational databases and access to

national newspapers.

Other things to do from home:

- Complete the Census! Use the website [my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov).
- Support The Friends when you shop on Amazon. Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), select the Friends of the Woodbridge Library as your designated charity, and shop as you normally would! The Friends receive a small amount of your purchase.

If you have questions or need help with digital media, please call or email: 203-389-3434 or [wbrstaff@lioninc.org](mailto:wbrstaff@lioninc.org).

## Recreation Summer Camp

Summer Camp CIT and Volunteers **online** registration begins March 30 for those enrolled in summer camp last year. For remaining spots, open registration begins Mon., April 6.

Summer Camp runs June 29

through August 7 and registration for campers including Camp Hero begins April 1. Details are on the Recreation page on the Town website: [woodbridget.org](http://woodbridget.org).

For additional information, please call 203-389-3446.

## Take a Hike!

For residents looking to be active outside, hike or bike on the Town's more than 35 miles of trails. Maps are on the Town website under "Recreation."

Volunteers looking to help maintain them are requested to do regular, light maintenance on the trails and to

refer to the Town's new Trails Handbook, available on the Conservation Commission page of the Town website.

The trailmaster should be notified of major maintenance issues at [trailmaster@woodbridget.org](mailto:trailmaster@woodbridget.org).

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