



Office of the **TOWN MANAGER**

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

East Hampton Response COVID-19 Pandemic

East Hampton, CT, March 19, 2020 – The Town of East Hampton continues to respond to the current pandemic situation while continuing to provide basic services as we are able within the guidance of the State, the Chatham Health District and other agencies. This is a difficult time for all of us and we are asked to exhibit patience as the community moves through this situation.

As of 8:00am, Tuesday, March 17, all town facilities are closed to the general public. The Library and Senior Center closed on Monday, March 16. Staff is working and may be contacted via phone or e-mail. That information is posted on the Town website (easthamptonct.gov) and is posted on the doors to Town facilities. Closure of Town facilities will continue to be evaluated as information becomes available and the situation continues to unfold.

The Town Hall and Building and Planning Office have drop boxes for customer use for delivering payments or application material. Additionally, payments and applications, as well as many other activities, may be accomplished online using fillable forms and email. Payments online are handled in the usual manner except that during the time while operations are impacted by the virus, the Town is waiving fees related to payments made by withdrawal from a checking or savings account. Further, we are in communication with our provider to reduce or eliminate the fees related to payment using a credit card.

Many Town meetings have been canceled or postponed, including the Town Council meeting for Tuesday, March 24. Notably, the Budget Public Hearing and Board of Finance budget workshops have been postponed. It is not known at this time when the meetings will occur, but once they are scheduled, the meetings will be conducted via a call-in or online method and the information related to participation will be included in the notice related to the meeting. Please monitor the Town website for information on these and other meetings.

Efforts to minimize contacts extend to the operation of the Town's Transfer Station. Effective March 21, the Town Transfer station will not be accepting bulky waste, tires or furniture, which require close customer interaction for payments. Additionally, at this time transfer station pass stickers will not be sold. All residents may continue to use the free services provided at the



transfer station, which include disposal of metals, large appliances, waste oil, mattresses, car batteries, electronics and brush. During this time, a sticker will not be required to access the free services at the Transfer Station. These limitations are being put in place to protect our residents and staff from the spread of COVID-19/Corona Virus by avoiding the handling and exchange of currency and following recommendations from health authorities to maintain safe social distancing. The restrictions will be lifted once guidance is received that it is appropriate to do so.

While the transition to the new Town Hall is proceeding it is not known at this time whether the move will be delayed. No Grand Opening Ceremony is planned at this time. Once it is safer to be together as a community, we will hold an event.

Residents are reminded to be diligent as they continue to avoid contact with others. In general, to prevent the spread of COVID-19, please maintain “social distancing” of at least 6 feet, stay away from group meetings and other opportunities for transmission, wash hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds and stay home if you are sick. For the most current updates and recommendations, visit ct.gov/coronavirus. For general questions, call 2-1-1.