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The Official Newsletter for the Town of Capitol Heights

THE TOWN OF CAPITOL HEIGHTS EXPRESS

SPECIAL EDITION

COVID – 19 Updates, Services & Resources

Town Administration

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Mayor & Council

Shawn M. Maldon, Mayor & Chair of
the Planning & Economic
Development Committee (PEDC)

Faith T. Ford, Councilmember & Chair
of the Communications & Outreach
Committee (COC)

Elaine Williams, Councilmember &
Chair of the Community, Health &
Environment Committee (CHEC)

Caroline Brown, Councilmember &
Chair of the Education/TV
Committee (EDUC/TV)

Renita A. Cason, Councilmember &
Chair of the Ethics & Legislative
Affairs Committee (ELC)

Rhonda A. Akers, Councilmember &
Chair of the Neighborhood Services
& Safety Committee (NSSC)

LaTonya G. Chew, Councilmember &
Chair of the Parks and Recreation
Committee (PARC)

Dear Residents:

The Mayor & Council would like to thank you for choosing the Town of Capitol Heights as your home! As a Town, we recognize the substantial need for services and resources during these difficult times. We wanted to reach out to you all and provide you with Town updates as well as local, county and state resources.

The Town Hall as well as the Capitol Heights Police Department administrative offices will operate on its normal schedule. For general assistance call Town Hall at **(301) 336-0626**, for police services call **(301) 420-2444**.

Emergency Legislation – The Mayor & Council has signed an emergency ordinance to request more authority for the Council to enforce laws and requesting more financial support for residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Seniors

Free Meals – Effective Monday, March 16, 2020, the County will begin delivering seven frozen meal packs to seniors who receive meals at the Department of Family Services, Senior Nutrition Program sites, based on the center's meal delivery schedule. Drop-off windows are between the hours of 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. For more information about senior food delivery and eligibility visit <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1723/Nutrition-Services>, or call the Senior Nutrition Program at **(301) 265-8475**.

Senior Call Check – Maryland Department of Aging recommends all seniors to use this program as a resource during the COVID-19 global pandemic. Senior Call Check phone lines are open M-F 8AM-5PM and Saturday 9AM-3PM. To register during these hours, seniors can call toll-free **1(866) 50-CHECK / (1-866-502-0560)**. Visit the Maryland Department of Aging website at <https://aging.maryland.gov/Pages/senior-call-check.aspx> for more information. (**Reference: Prince George's County Aging & Disabilities Services Division**)

Children

Free Meals - Breakfast, lunch and a snack are being provided at the following local locations:

- Bradbury Heights Elementary
- Carmody Hills Elementary
- John Bayne Elementary
- Walker Mill Middle School

For a full list of locations serving meals for students please visit https://mars.msde.maryland.gov/mars_sitesearch/. (**Reference: Maryland State Dept. of Education-MD Meals Site**)

Free Senior Photo Shoot - The Town of Capitol Heights Education/TV Committee (EDUC/TV) is offering a free photo shoot for graduating seniors at their home. All photos will be taken more than 6-feet away following **social distance guidelines**. Please send your name, email address and contact number to Councilwoman Caroline Brown at 301-793-1386 or by email at cbrown@capitolheightsmd.com.



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COVID – 19 Updates, Services & Resources (Continued)

Food Distribution

Town Distribution- The Town of Capitol Heights Neighborhood Services & Safety Committee in partnership with the First Baptist Church of Capitol Heights will distribute food and provide informational resources to Town residents in need of assistance. For more information and to RSVP please contact Councilwoman Rhonda Akers at (301) 793-0367 or by email at rakers@capitolheightsmd.com.

County Distribution- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, several food pantries have been set up all over the County. To search for the food pantry nearest you please visit

<https://princegeorges.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=2261972a19bb49f9b21af016cb76ade4>.

(Reference: Prince George's County Highlights News Flash: Food Pantry Locations)

Health

COVID-19 Screening Appointments - As of May 4, 2020, the Prince George's County Health Department's COVID-19 community screening and testing operation will take place at the Cheverly Health Center located at 3003 Hospital Drive, Cheverly, MD 20785. Residents desiring COVID-19 testing should contact their primary care physicians or our coronavirus hotline, 301-883-6627. The Health Department is conducting **FREE COVID-19 screening and testing by APPOINTMENT ONLY**. Appointments are available M-F from 10AM to 3PM. For additional testing locations statewide, visit <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/symptoms-testing>. **(Reference: Maryland.gov-COVID-19 Symptoms & Testing)**

Health Insurance - A new special enrollment period is now open to all Marylanders in need of health insurance during the State of Emergency. For those in need of health insurance Maryland Health Connection currently has COVID-19 Special Enrollment open for Prince George's County residents. Phone assistance is available **Monday - Friday from 8:00AM - 6:00PM** by calling **1(855) 642-8572**. To enroll through Maryland Health Connection visit <https://www.marylandhealthconnection.gov/>. **(Reference: Maryland Health Connection)**

Neighborhood Services

Temporary, Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA) is available to help with rent and utility payments for tenants whose employment income has been negatively impacted by COVID-19. This assistance may help prevent arrears and late fees from accumulating and prevent evictions from occurring. Depending upon need, applicants may be eligible for a maximum of up to \$1,800.00 per month for a maximum of up to 3 months of emergency rental assistance. To see if you are eligible, how to apply and documentation required please visit <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3471/COVID-19-Emergency-Rental-Assistance>. *Due to an overwhelming response, this program is temporarily closed. Please check back periodically for updates.* **(Reference: Prince George's County- COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance)**

Trash Services –

Yard Waste – As of May 4, 2020, all yard waste will be collected separately from the residential trash collection. Yard Waste is collected every Monday, all residents must have items out by 6AM on the day of collection. Make sure to have waste in a county approved biodegradable bag.

Bulk Trash - Bates Trucking is suspending ALL Municipal curbside bulky trash services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Residents are asked to store these materials at home until regular service resumes. Any further changes in services will be reported immediately. Please check out Bates website <https://www.batestrucking.com/> periodically for any service changes or interruption during this COVID-19 Pandemic.

Text Message Updates - To receive alerts, tips, and resources related to COVID-19 and other threats and hazards affecting (or that may affect Maryland) text "**MdReady**" to **898211**. **(Reference: The Office of Governor Larry Hogan-Maryland Unites)**

Transportation

Call-A-Bus – The Town of Capitol Heights Call-A-Bus is no longer in use due to COVID-19, we are deferring to the Prince George's County Call-A-Bus. Service is available to all residents of Prince George's County who are not served by, or cannot use, existing bus or rail services. However, priority is given to seniors and persons with disabilities. For more information please visit <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1138/Call-a-Bus>. For service, please call **(301) 499-8603**. **(Reference: Prince George's County Call-A-Bus)**