



The Town of HAMPSTEAD Maryland

Volume 25

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Mayor

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Officer Clint Thorn
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Officer Matt Shifflett

www.hampsteadmd.gov

From The Mayor's Desk

As you receive this Newsletter it is the first week of June and our thoughts should be turning to a summer filled with activities that are shared with family and friends. However, as we have only begun to re-open from the effects of COVID-19, these times are both unique and unsettling. As you read the Newsletter, every article has the same theme; the impact of the virus on our lives here in Hampstead. Unfortunately, that means that just about every summer event has been cancelled.



Carroll County and our Town have largely been spared the impact of the virus which as you know has had a more profound effect on the elderly and people with underlying health conditions. As of May 21st, the County's community spread of the virus totals 337 with another 396 in Nursing Homes and in the Hampstead Zip Code (an area significantly larger than our Town) there have been 27 reported cases over a 9 week period. The Health Department will not provide a more detailed reporting.

One area that has been hit extremely hard by the pandemic and the protocols enacted to fight it, have been our local businesses. Many were forced to temporarily close due to being labeled non-essential, while the businesses that were allowed to remain open, must do so under restrictive regulations and guidelines. Why there was a distinction made between the big box stores and local merchants escapes me. How a few hundred people in a large store was less of a risk than 10 or fewer people in a small business exercising proper protocols defies reason. As you have read many times in this Newsletter, we believe small locally owned businesses are the backbone of small towns like ours. We often take them for granted, figuring they will always be there. They are owned by our neighbors, friends, or a couple that goes to the same church. They have always been there for us. Chances are pretty good that one of these local businesses sponsored your child's ball team, contributed to a local fundraiser, donated money or goods so the school play could go on, etc. They have always been there for our Town and now we need to be there for them. Many of these local businesses have a robust web presence enabling you to conduct business in the same manner as you would with a larger business. I don't remember ever seeing Amazon on a uniform in the Little League parade, but I sure remember seeing J&P Pizza, Mathews Tire, Towne Pride, Dreamers Travel, Outlaw BBQ, Shipley's Jewelers and many others. I cannot emphasize enough how much, especially now, everyone needs to Shop Local!

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Town Manager's Corner

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic guidelines, our everyday lives are much different today than they were just three months ago. From the beginning, the Town implemented new protocols to limit exposure to essential personnel. We switched from communicating in face to face meetings to conversing via phone calls, emails, and virtual meetings, even between our three different departments. Our objective was and still is to safeguard the continuation of services and keep our citizens and staff safe. Our Town office remains locked to protect our staff and the public, but we are still answering the phone and working hard to serve you.



Maintaining the ongoing operations of our Water System is Public Works' main priority. As a result, Public Works continues to be split into two teams, one managed by Superintendent Kevin Hann and the other managed by Assistant Superintendent Toby David, with each team taking separate one-week shifts. In the meantime, any routine maintenance that requires personal interaction with the citizens of Hampstead has been placed on hold. We hope to return to normal operations very soon.

Over the past few years, many new businesses have come into our Town and now call Hampstead home. Many existing businesses have been an important part of our community for decades. Please continue to support all our local businesses so they will still be here when we reach the other side of this challenging journey.

Normally, I would conclude my article by encouraging everyone to attend our summer activities. Sadly, most of our summer events have been canceled, but you can still enjoy our parks and order from our Farmers Market. Please remember to practice social distancing while you are out and stay home if you are sick.

We appreciate everyone's understanding and cooperation as we all try to understand our path forward. Stay healthy and safe!

News From the Police Department

New Ways of Police Service

As we move into the spring season, we move through another month of what has been a unique time. Our entire community has been impacted by these events, and we have all learned ways to adapt and change to our current circumstances. The Police Department is no different. Some of our more traditional focus has changed. During these events we have focused on ensuring our infrastructure remains safe and supporting the community.



Regardless of events that occur, we will continue to provide police services to the Town of Hampstead. Like everyone else, we have had to adapt our approach with the goal of keeping our people in the Department safe, while we keep the community safe as well.

Some of our adaptations have included:

- Limiting access to our lobby when possible to one person at a time.
- Adjusting schedules and limiting the number of personnel inside the Department.
- Addressing calls for service by telephone when appropriate.
- Avoiding unnecessary trips inside homes.
- Developing safe methods for interacting with the public during police activities such as traffic enforcement, or criminal investigations.

Additionally, we have taken the necessary steps to provide as much protection to our officers as practical. This includes providing the necessary personal protective equipment, sanitizing procedures for our building and vehicles, as well as additional training related to the COVID-19 virus.

Despite all of the above, we are proud to welcome Hampstead's own Matthew Shifflett to the Police Department. Matt completed the Police Academy in February. In a unique ceremony Matt was sworn in by the Mayor in the Town Hall with only Officer Cranshaw and myself in attendance. We look forward to Matt being out on patrol, and we hope to recognize his achievement publicly someday in a more traditional setting.

Finally, we would like to extend our thanks to all in the Town for the numerous ways in which you have shown your support for your officers. Thank you for the various items of food, meals, homemade masks and notes. Most of all, thanks for helping each other throughout these events, and continuing to make Hampstead the special place that it is.

Public Works News and Notes

During these difficult times, the Hampstead Public Works Department has been working at a modified staffing level to ensure our department will be available to provide our customers with clean, safe, and dependable drinking water. We have also suspended entering customers' homes for everyday appointments, such as meter replacements and checking for leaks. Rest assured, our department continues to work hard to meet the everyday needs of Hampstead.



Town of Hampstead

If you experience a problem related to your water pipes, please do not hesitate to contact our office or Town Hall. Our staff may be able to talk you through the issue over the phone.

As always if you have an issue related to water quality, please contact our office immediately at 410-239-6659. Please continue to stay safe and observe social distancing policies.



Serving the Town of Hampstead for more than 100 years

HVFC FACES COVID-19 ISSUES

Assistant Chief Troy Hipsley

Operations have been adjusted to deal with the COVID-19 response. We have implemented procedures to ensure our members are safe such as mandatory healthy check-in procedures and multiple temperature checks for our EMS staff. If you see us on calls you will notice a different appearance. Our crews will be wearing gloves, safety glasses and masks on all interactions. We ask for the communities assistance with slowing down the spread of the virus. Please follow all recommendations with regards to social distancing and face masks put out by the CDC. If you have any COVID-19 related questions the Carroll County Health Department has a hotline setup. 410-976-4848.

We have sustained revenue losses because of the pandemic. To date we have lost over \$27,000.00. We depend on our fundraisers for our operating budget and to purchase new equipment. We have had to cancel numerous events including our largest fundraiser, our annual carnival.

To comply with Governor Hogan's Statewide orders, Hampstead VFD has implemented the following:

- The station (along with the social hall) is closed to all visitors.
- Cancelled hosting of large events
- All social, rental and public events at the firehouse (including events hosted by the Auxiliary) are cancelled or postponed until

at least June 1. We will continually re-evaluate this date as new information is gathered.

We want to take this time to thank the community for the generous donations that we have received during this time. We have received donations of cleaning supplies, food and desserts.

While our facilities are restricted from the public for now, rest assure that we are fully staffed, ready to respond to emergencies in the community. If we all work as a team we will get through this difficult time.

NEW ENGINE UPDATE

Our new engine is in the process of being built by Seagrave Fire Apparatus in Wisconsin. They are slated to have the frame rails hit the assembly line in the first week in May. The expected delivery date of the engine is the second week of June. This has been in the design and planning process since 2016. The total cost of the new engine will be \$750,000.00. This is why fundraising is so important to us. We depend greatly on your donations and support at our functions. We are very excited to have this project coming to a close. Look for updates on our website and Facebook page.

Hampstead Volunteer Fire Department
410-239-4280
Learn more at
www.hampsteadvfd.org

Main Street Spotlight



Normally, we use this space to highlight one local business. But this time we are putting the spotlight on all our Hampstead businesses. They are the heart and soul of our Town. We wish we had the space to put photos of all our local business people, but Hampstead has so many great ones, we can't fit them all here. Please remember and support them in these tough times.

SHOP SMART • SHOP LOCAL



Hampstead Farmers' Market Preparing for 11th Season!



To our Hampstead Farmers' Market Community:

During this time we are all struggling to come to grips with our new reality. The COVID-19 crisis and the current restrictions in place to keep us safe have affected everyone. However, we want you to know that the Hampstead Farmers' Market Advisory Team has carefully considered the best way to operate as we approach the opening of our 2020 season. This decision has been made with the health and safety of our community as our number one priority, while knowing we also have an important duty to provide this community with access to locally grown and produced food and other goods. Therefore, until the state and federal regulations are no longer in effect, the market will function as a preorder and prepayment only market. You can find a list of participating vendors on both the Hampstead Farmers' Market website and Facebook page, or you can call Keith Johnson at 410-236-0589. Please note that at this time, only essential items are allowed to be sold. We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we navigate these uncharted waters together! Customers who would like to place orders through participating individual vendors can do so prior to our Opening Day, June 6, 2020, and each week thereafter until further notice. Pick up of items preordered and prepaid will be **during our usual market times – each Saturday between 8:30 am and 12 noon (or scheduled appointment pick up times with individual vendors) on the Carnival Grounds of the Hampstead Volunteer Fire Department, 1341 N. Main Street in Hampstead.**

Using the preorder option does not mean, however, that customers and vendors will not need to follow hygiene guidelines mandated by the state. Please review the following special market guidelines below before coming to the market grounds for pick up:

- Face masks must be worn when picking up orders
- NO PETS permitted at the market until further notice
- Maintain 6-foot distancing rule
- If possible please only one person attend for pick up. Limit socializing; do not come with a group.
- No walk-up shopping/purchases are permitted. All items must be preordered and prepaid.
- Some vendors may have their own safety procedures in place; please be respectful of their requests.

We are excited to begin our 2020 season and provide you with access to local food. Our farmers and small businesses rely on our market to continue providing for the community. Thank you for supporting them!!!

Volunteers Needed!

The meaning of life is to find your gift. The work of life is to develop it. The purpose of life is to give it away." - David S. Viscott

Have you ever been disappointed when looking forward to a community event in Hampstead only to find out it has been cancelled, not because of weather or lack of interest but because there were not enough volunteers to staff the event? Well, become part of the solution to this problem by being a Hampstead volunteer.

Please consider joining the Town of Hampstead and The Committee on Hampstead Revitalization and Beautification as we forge a group of committed citizens with community spirit to help Hampstead move into the future. As construction ends in the coming months, volunteers will be needed to help with events on and around Main Street. The success of these events will depend on talented and hard-working individuals like you.

The Committee on Hampstead Revitalization and Beautification needs volunteers like you to build a cadre of responsible adults to periodically assist with a variety of tasks throughout the year. Skilled and/or non-skilled volunteers are needed for jobs such as event setup and teardown, carpentry, flower planting, gardening, cleanup after an event, meeting assistance, light clerical work, and other duties as they arise.

If interested in being an "on call" volunteer, please call the Town of Hampstead office at 410-239-7408. You will be asked to leave your contact information so that someone may contact you.



Hampstead Merchants Association

Small businesses are the backbone of our nation's economy and an irreplaceable asset to a small town such as Hampstead.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a tremendously adverse impact on our local merchants, Hampstead community, nation and the world. While the health and safety of our families, colleagues and neighbors is of the utmost concern, we also can't forget about our small businesses.

From curb-side to carry out, online and live streamed, pickup & delivery, so many of our merchants are adapting to these difficult times and finding new and unique ways to still offer their products and services. It is incredible to see the outpouring support and commitment had by our local citizens for our "small town" merchants, restaurants, nonprofits and associations! WE ALL THANK YOU!

Our past few months have progressed without many of the events and activities we call on year after year. A postponed business expo, a spring without Easter services and treasured time with family. Senior year for our students without spring sports, prom, and graduations now in jeopardy. Welcomed warmer weather without Hampstead Day and numerous annual events and fundraisers regrettably postponed until further notice.

2020 will undoubtedly be a year we remember for the rest of our lives as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. However, it is also a time where many have come together with unwavering passion, conviction and persistence.

Through adversity comes triumph, and our town, merchants and organizations will bounce back stronger than before. We are in this together, and are all praying for better health and times to come. Supporting your local businesses during these troubling times is sincerely appreciated and never taken for granted. THANK YOU!

Fondly,
Connor F. Eline
2019-2020 HMA President



Annual Water Quality Report

We are once again proud to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between 1/1/19 and 12/31/19. This report is required by the Safe



Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users. To review the report, click here [Annual Water Report 2019](https://bit.ly/2WiMomx) or type: <https://bit.ly/2WiMomx> into your internet browser address bar.

Music In The Park

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Governor's Executive Orders on Social Distancing and Gatherings, we regret to announce that the 2020 Music in the Park Concerts have been cancelled.



We look forward to seeing everyone again in 2021, when we can all get together as a community and enjoy some great music and friendship.

Mayor's Message (continued)

As you will read in this Newsletter, the Town Government has adjusted operations; however, we continue to provide all needed services and our employees have stepped forward to make sure we do not miss a beat. Our Town has also filled in the gaps where needed. Town staff has served as a resource for local businesses through numerous e-mails and phone calls making sure information was disseminated on all the various federal, state and local programs put in place to help them weather the COVID-19 storm. A Mother's Day Flower Giveaway was set up in short order to substitute for the schools being closed and the students not able to bring flowers home to Mom - a heartfelt thank you to our volunteers. Leftover flowers were then distributed to local restaurants to give away to their customers. Our parks are open (they never closed) and from what I can see are being used well and safely. Main Street construction continues along the west side of the road and C. J. Miller is making solid progress. We are hopeful the project will be finished by the end of the year and it is good to see people walking and jogging along the finished portion of the road.

The Mayors of each Carroll County Town/City have been meeting weekly by Zoom and have also had a meeting with the Commissioners and State Delegates. We are all on the same page in wanting and pushing for the County and our Towns/Cities to open as soon as possible.

Our Town Government believes in personal responsibility and common sense regulations and is ready to re-open. The June Town Council Meeting will be held in Town Hall; not on Zoom. We have heard from many people ready to resume their normal lives but at the same time will respect those more vulnerable or uneasy about the effect of the virus. As soon as we are given the all clear by the Governor, I look forward to seeing you in person out and about our Town. Please stay informed by visiting the Town's Website and following the Town on Facebook. In the meantime, stay safe.

Military Banners



Our Main Street Military Banners are up! They look wonderful, and are a fitting tribute to those who gave so much in service of our country and our Town. Our banners will be proudly displayed from now until the fall.

Check Hampstead on Your Taxes

On the top section of your Maryland Income Tax Return form is a box asking you to fill in the name of your "City, Town or Taxing Area". We ask that all Hampstead residents take note to fill this box in with our Town name. By filling in this box you will not be required to pay an additional tax but will ensure that our Town receives its proper local share of the taxes you pay to the State. The amount we receive from the State as our local share of State Income Taxes is a significant part of our annual income and helps to keep our property tax rate low.



Comprehensive Plan Update

The Hampstead Planning & Zoning Commission is currently working on the 2020 update to the Hampstead Community Comprehensive Plan. They are seeking community input. A 10 question survey pertaining to what the community would like to see for Hampstead in the next 10 years has been put together. It is available by clicking here: [2020 Comprehensive Plan Community Input Survey](#), under Helpful Links and Documents on www.hampsteadmd.gov or hard copies can be picked up at Town Hall.

Carroll Counts 2020

Why do my answers matter?

A new school to ease overcrowded classrooms.
A new road to ease overcrowded commutes.
There are many ways the 2020 Census can shape your community. The results collected once a decade, help ensure public services and funding for schools, hospitals, and fire departments.



The more people that answer the Census in Hampstead, the better it is for all of us

All responses are kept strictly confidential. You can fill out your census by phone

844-330-2020

or click here to fill out your census

www.my2020census.gov

Thank You!!

Thank You To Allbrite Pressure Wash, Inc.

John Woytowicz and one of his crews from Allbrite Pressure Wash was gracious enough to come out and clean and disinfect all the equipment in the Town's Playgrounds. **And they did it for Free!** Their contribution to keeping people safe and healthy.

Thank you Allbrite Pressure Wash!!



Town of Hampstead

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Hampstead, MD 21074

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Upcoming Meetings and Events

June

- 6 - Farmers Market Opening Day - 8:30 AM - NOON
- 6 - Bulk Trash Day (Put out trash Friday evening)
- 9 - Town Council Meeting - 7:30 PM - Town Hall
- 24 - Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
7:00 PM Town Hall

July

- 3 - Independence Day Observed - Town Hall Closed
- 14 - Town Council Meeting - 7:30 PM - Town Hall
- 18 - Bulk Trash Day (Put out trash Friday evening)
- 22 - Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
7:00 PM Town Hall

August

- 11 - Town Council Meeting - 7:30 PM - Town Hall
- 26 - Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
7:00 PM Town Hall

September

- 7 - Labor Day - Town Hall Closed
- 8 - Town Council Meeting - 7:30 PM - Town Hall
- 23 - Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
7:00 PM Town Hall

Bulk Trash

**Bulk Day is re-scheduled
for June 6th!**



Bulk trash pickup is for in-Town residents only (those who live within the incorporated Town limits and pay Town taxes). These days are reserved for large items like old chairs, appliances, etc. Residents should place bulk items out by Friday evening. **Please refrain from putting bulk items out on regular trash days - our trash collector will not pick them up except on the designated Bulk Trash dates. **We cannot pick up tires, paint, motors, items with freon, oil or other hazardous waste or construction materials.** If you have any questions, call us!

**The next Bulk Trash Day
is scheduled for July 18**