

PRESS RELEASE

June 18, 2020

Update on Town & Village services regarding COVID-19

Recreation offices open to the public; Pools open at Maple Street and Sandhill; expanded hours in Clerk's Office; Senior Center and Van program remain closed

ESSEX JCT. – In response to the Governor's Executive Order extending the State of Emergency until July 15, 2020 the Town of Essex and Village of Essex Junction will be offering the follow services through at least July 16, 2020. The municipalities will continue to require residents to adhere to certain guidelines when visiting municipal facilities. The municipalities continue to encourage all staff to work remotely if possible.

Departmental updates include the following:

Clerk

The Clerk's Office at 81 Main St. has expanded appointment hours **for land record searches and marriage licenses**. Applicants for marriage licenses must have completed the application which can be found here: <https://www.essexvt.org/235/Marriage-Licenses> . Both parties need to sign the application, but only one party needs to bring the application in to have the license issued. For more info call 879-0413. The new hours, which took effect on June 15, 2020, are Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to noon, and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Two members of the public at a time are allowed in the Clerk's Office. Visitors must wear face masks, must pass a screening test, and will be given gloves before entering the building. **All other Clerk services will be offered remotely by phone, email, website, or drop box.**

Libraries

Brownell and Essex Free libraries will continue offering curbside service for materials loaning. There will be no public access to the buildings until at least July 16. Curbside service will be available Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at both Brownell Library and Essex Free Library. Essex Free Library is now also open for pickup only on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon.

Parks & Recreation

Indian Brook- At Indian Brook Park, all pets must be leashed at all times. Violations may result in the suspension or termination of passes. As always, Indian Brook users must have a valid pass and all park goers must enter through the main entrance off Indian Brook Road.

Camps/Day Care- In accordance with State and Federal guidelines, Essex Parks and Recreation and Essex Junction Recreation and Parks are running camps and programs this summer.

Pools- Maple Street Pool and Sand Hill Pool are now open in a limited capacity this summer. Both pools are offering swim lessons this summer. Both pools require reservations prior to arrival, along with completing a contact tracing log sheet.

75 Maple Recreation Offices- The offices at 75 Maple St. are now open to the public. The current hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

More info on recreation activities and services can be found on the www.essexrec.org website.

Senior Center

The Senior Center and the Senior Van program will remain closed at least through August 3, 2020.

Public Works

Public Works field staff continue to work their regular work schedules (start times of shifts may be staggered to minimize contact between teams of employees). This includes all Town Highway and Water-Sewer employees, and all Village Public Works employees. Employees are practicing social distancing and wearing face masks if they need to share vehicles or if they are working in close proximity to other employees and the public.

Town Public Works office staff is working split shifts and can be reached via e-mail or telephone (878-1344) during normal working hours. Village Public Works can be reached at 878-6944. Requests for public works service can also be submitted via the See-Click-Fix app at www.essexjunction.org or www.essexvt.org.

All Public Works Buildings remain closed to the public at the present time.

Municipal staff in Assessing, Community Development, Finance, and the Manager's Office are working primarily remotely. These departments remain available to assist customers by phone and electronically, even as the physical locations remain closed to the public through at least July 16, 2020 in compliance with the Governor's Order. Residents and customers are asked to conduct all municipal business electronically, by phone, or by mail. For any business that cannot be conducted remotely, staff will be available by appointment only.

When entering municipal buildings, the public must wear masks and gloves. Staff will also ask screening questions before allowing visitors to enter.

The Town and Village are committed to doing our part to keep the public and our staff healthy while preventing the spread of COVID-19, while also providing the best public service possible. We are closely monitoring the situation regarding COVID-19. The best sources to stay informed are the Vermont Department of Health (www.healthvermont.gov) and the Centers for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov) websites. These resources are updated daily and contain helpful tips for hygiene and preventing the spread of the virus.

We will continue to evaluate the situation and use guidance from the Vermont Health Department. Additional information will be shared with any changes to Town and Village services. Please check www.essexvt.org and www.essexjunction.org for updates.

For more information, contact Greg Duggan, Deputy Manager/Public Information Officer (802-878-1341, gduggan@essex.org) or Tammy Getchell, Assistant to the Manager/Deputy Public Information Officer (802-878-6951, tgetchell@essex.org).