

Covid 19 Update  
May 19, 2020

Unfortunately, there will not be a Memorial Day parade this year. However, the Police and Fire Departments will be laying wreaths at all of our veterans' graves. This will be completed by Friday. As many people do, please fly your flags at half mast on Memorial in honor of the fallen.

The Food Pantry is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Masonic Temple. You don't need to be a current client to use the Pantry. With the help of donations from the Greater Boston Food Bank and the generous citizens of Scituate, they are assisting anyone in need.

SANDS, our "neighbor helping neighbor" nonprofit, has face masks if you need one. Go to [www.Sandshelps.org](http://www.Sandshelps.org) for information.

Scituate has 4 new cases (positive or antibody) since last Thursday. There are no new cases at Lifecare Center. At Cardigan, 4 of 50 tested positive. Since April 29, all new cases were at nursing homes or addresses with previous cases. This means social distancing and wearing face masks is working. If you see someone not wearing a mask, please don't judge them. They may have a medical condition that prevents them from wearing a mask.

The big announcement came from the Governor yesterday. There are four phases to reopening and there is a lot to unpack. Briefly, Phase One started yesterday and will last for approximately three weeks. Barber shops, hair salons, pet groomers, car washes can open next Monday following strict guidelines. Retail shops and libraries can do curbside pick up beginning next week. Our library is working on their plan. We will post all the information the state has given us on the town website. [www.scituatema.gov](http://www.scituatema.gov).

In recreation news, basketball courts may be reopened but only two people can shoot baskets. Social distancing applies. Some parks but not all may reopen. We are not sure about the dog park. We are studying the information and hope to update you further on Thursday. We will institute all recommendations on beaches including 12 foot separation between towels/blankets. If you can't social distance at the beach, you must wear a mask. There are no current parking restrictions for beach sticker holders at our beaches. The Board of Selectmen did not want to do this but people need to be responsible and follow the rules that will be posted. Lifeguards will start in June. Port-a-Potties will be installed at the beaches and will be cleaned daily. This is quite expensive but it has to be done. There will be no organized game playing at beaches, just passive recreation.

The marinas are open, however, there are no launch services until next Monday. This is a bit of a disconnect. But once launches start, there will be rules including one family per launch and launches must be cleaned between trips.

The Town Election is on June 13. Polls are open from 9 am to 2 pm at the High School. However, we strongly suggest people vote early by mail. You can download the form requesting a mail in or absentee ballot by going to the Town Clerk's page on the Town website. Printed forms can also be picked up at the front door of Town Hall.

Town Meeting has been postponed until June 8 and will likely be postponed again. This is due to restrictions on crowd sizes (still a maximum of 10) and budget uncertainties. Some towns, including ours, are considering outdoor meetings. We are predicting a 10% reduction in local aid from the state, which had a \$6 billion revenue shortfall over last year. When we do have Town Meeting, it may be abbreviated, addressing only critical items and saving everything else until the Fall. We have posted all Covid information businesses may need on the Town website as well as links to the various state agencies.

