COVID 19-TOWN SERVICES ACTION PLAN

Date: March 16, 2020
Covid 19 Action Plan Update #2

Dear Residents & Businesses

Earlier today, Governor Larry Hogan announced additional executive orders in an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus pandemic and to better position our state to deal with the expected rise in the number of cases of the virus that are expected to come. It is important to note that these unprecedented measures, although scary and disruptive, are important to minimize the long-term effects on our society and more specifically our Rising Sun community.

Earlier today the Governor issued the following summarized executive orders that took effect at 5 PM tonight. The actual executive order can be found on the Town’s website at www.risingsunmd.org. These orders will be in effect until further notice and will be enforced by the Town of Rising Sun.

- All Restaurants and Bars are hereby closed to the general public, except that, to the extent permitted by applicable law, and in accordance with any social-distancing recommendations of the Maryland Department of Health, food and beverages may be sold if such food or beverages are promptly taken from the premises, i.e., on a carry-out or drive-through basis; or if delivered to customers off the premises. This order allows for eateries within health care facilities to remain open.

- All fitness centers, spas, and theaters shall be closed.

- All social, community, spiritual, religious, recreational, leisure, and sporting gatherings and events ("large gatherings and events") of more than 50 people are hereby prohibited at all locations and venues, including but not limited to parades, festivals, conventions, and fundraisers. Planned large gatherings and events must be cancelled or postponed until after termination of the state of emergency.

- All senior citizen activities centers shall be closed until after termination of the state of emergency.

- All bingo halls in Maryland are closed to the general public.

- Essential services such as grocery stores, banks and gas stations will be allowed to remain open.
The following provisions are being provided locally:

- Town has waived any service fees associated with the payment of utility bills using the Town’s online payment system. For residents and businesses impacted by this situation, late fees and shut offs for non-payment will be suspended until further notice.
- In conjunction with the Cecil County Public Schools, children of families in need can stop by Janes United Methodist Church, Monday thru Friday between 11 am and 12 noon, while the schools are closed and received a free bagged lunch to take home.
- Janes United and Ebenezer United Methodist Church are teaming up to offer grocery deliveries from Martins and pharmacy deliveries from Sun Pharmacy. Orders can be placed at www.Martins.com and paid for by credit card. This service will be provided Monday thru Friday, 9 am till 1 PM. Please call 410-658-6800 for more details.
- Armstrong has agreed to relax data allowance policies for all levels of residential Zoom Internet service for the next sixty days. This will ensure that all residential Internet customers have unlimited data allowances and will not have to worry about overage charges.
- In addition, Armstrong has also opened all Wi-Fi Hot Spots in our service area to the general public Free of charge. Residents can find Hot Spot locations by logging into Armstrong at www.armstrongonewire.com/link and type in “free hot spots” in the search bar.

As we navigate our way through these challenging times, we have never faced anything like this before. It is important to remember that although these steps may appear extreme to some and scary to many, they are necessary to ensure that fewer people are negatively impacted. We are in this together and there is no need to panic. The sacrifices that we are making now will be very disruptive to our lives but will ensure the safety of our loved ones, friends and fellow neighbors. As Mayor and on behalf of the board of commissioners, I ask that you check on your neighbors and lend a helping hand to those less fortunate when possible. Please be considerate to others who may have concerns. Please also know that the Town of Rising Sun and our emergency management staff are attending the meetings and participating with the appropriate agencies to get all the up to date information and developing plans to assist our resident through these difficult times. Let us also not forget about some of our treasured business, some that are family owned and operated eateries that will be going through very difficult times in the coming weeks. Please remember to support their takeout and delivery menus. Finally, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Town Hall at torsreceptionist@risingsunmd.org. or by phone by calling 410-658-5353 We will be happy to assist you in any way that we can.

In your service,

Mayor Travis Marion