



COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY

Commissioner Leonard John Buckle

Commissioner Anthony Casey

Commissioner John Hurley

To the Residents and Businesses of the Town of Ridgely,

The Town of Ridgely is taking the necessary steps to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation and do all that we can to ensure the safety of all. The health and safety of our residents, staff, and visitors is our top priority. In alignment with expert public health guidance related to the spread of COVID-19, we are implementing the following steps to minimize health and safety risks to our community. Currently, there are no known positive cases of COVID-19 within Ridgely or Caroline County.

All Town Hall services will remain open and operational. However, beginning Tuesday, March 17, 2020, we are taking the following proactive steps to protect the health of the entire community:

Town Hall will be closed for walk-ins by the public. All contact with Town Hall should take place through phone at 410-634-2177 between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:00 pm, or by email. There will be no faxing/copy/notary services. To contact a specific department, please visit our website at www.ridgelymd.org

Water/Sewer Payments: Water/Sewer payments by check or money order may be either mailed to 2 Central Avenue Ridgely, MD 21660 or dropped off at the Town Hall in the secure drop box located on the front of the building. **Please, no cash payments.** Residents may also pay by credit card via online bill pay at www.ridgelymd.org and clicking on Pay your bill. First time online bill pay users will need to call the Town Hall to obtain a registration code. *Residents utilizing our payment arrangement program will not need to come into the office to fill out the form. For this quarter, we will extend the due date for payment arrangements to June 5, 2020.* Should you have questions concerning your bill, please contact Town Hall at 410-634-2177.

Permits: Building permit applications are available on the Town's website. The Town will continue to receive and process building permit applications through the mail, email or the Town Hall drop-box. Due to the rapidly changing circumstances evolving with this pandemic, we cannot guarantee when your permit will be issued. Every effort will be made to issue the permit in a timely manner, but in accordance with current health safety issues and practices. Middle Department Inspection Agency is responsible for all building inspections within the Town. Please contact them directly at 410-822-8300 for information about scheduling your building inspections.

Code enforcement: Our Code Enforcement Officer will continue to monitor the Town, but will not conduct any interior inspections, including rental inspections until further notice. Any possible life, safety or public health situations that require interior inspections will be addressed by the Building Inspector with the proper precautions taken.

Police Department: The Police Department will be operating under normal business hours until further notice. Enhanced safety procedures will be followed. Residents with non-emergency issues (report a minor crime/theft/trespassing where the suspect is not on the scene) will be handled by telephone. Please call 410-634-2151 or dispatch at 410-479-2515. No repair orders will be inspected, until further notice. For all emergencies, please call 911.

Public Works Department: Services from our Public Works Department may be interrupted. Brush and other debris may be delayed. Non-emergency calls for service will be handled as quickly as possible.

Trash and Recycling Pickups: At this time, trash and recycling will remain on schedule. Trash pick-up is collected by a private contractor. If they make us aware of any changes in service, we will get that information out as quickly as possible.

Public Meetings: The Town has cancelled all non-essential public meetings until further notice, including Town Meetings and Planning & Zoning. We will continue to monitor the situation.

Town Events: In an effort to take precautions and protect the health and safety of people, events may either be canceled or rescheduled. Please check our website and Facebook page for the latest information.

Martin Sutton Park Rentals: At this time events at Martin Sutton Park are not permitted. If you have already scheduled your event, please contact the Town Hall. We will make every effort to accommodate you to reschedule the event once the COVID-19 crisis is over.

Governor Hogan has issued an Executive Order closing all bars, restaurants, theaters and gyms as of 5:00 pm Monday March 16, 2020. This order will still allow for restaurants to provide take-out, delivery or drive-thru service.

The Town of Ridgely plans to evaluate its operational capacity and telework options for non-essential employees and plans to announce any further operational changes as needed. The Town will be communicating with the public throughout this crisis. Future updates will be posted on our website at www.ridgelymd.org and on our Ridgely, Maryland Facebook page. Emergency text messages will also be sent if the need arises. Please go to www.ridgelymd.org to sign up for text message alerts.

For additional health resources regarding COVID-19, including case counts and clinician guidance, please visit the following websites:

Center for Disease Control - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Caroline County Health Department – www.carolinehd.org

Maryland Department of Health (MDH) - <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/>

It is the sincere hopes of the Commissioners and the Staff of the Town of Ridgely that all of our residents remain healthy during this crisis.

Sincerely,
Anthony S. Casey
Commissioner of Ridgely, President