

CITY OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND
GREENBELT CARES YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES BUREAU
25 CRESCENT ROAD, GREENBELT, MD 20770



Liz Park, Ph.D.
Director

March 13, 2020

To: Green Ridge House Residents

Fr: Christal Batey, Community Resource Advocate, Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program

Re: Covid-19 City of Greenbelt Closures and Announcements

Today President Trump declared a National Emergency to protect the Nation. This includes travel restrictions and health efforts to thwart the rapidly emerging international pandemic of Coronavirus or Covid-19. Yesterday, Governor Hogan has declared a State of Emergency in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic and yesterday the State of Maryland has had its first community transmitted case advancing this public health emergency to its highest level. For the safety of our community the City of Greenbelt restricted public access to all City Buildings and Facilities as of Friday, March 13, 2020 until March 27th, 2020. In light of recent emergency declarations, Saturday, March 15, 2020 Green Ridge House will be closed to the public for visitors under 18, individuals who are exhibiting symptoms identified by the County Health, CDC and State of Maryland as a threat to the health of high risk residents- people age 60 and over and those with chronic health conditions. In light of the potential recent exposure of students at Eleanor Roosevelt High School and College Park Academy, as well as others in our region, the City has determined that out of an abundance of precaution, only essential service providers including food, grocery, and prescription deliveries as well as home health aide services will be allowed access.

Community Realty employees are working hard to help maintain a safe environment for residents, Community Realty and City staff. This includes extra cleaning of common areas as recommended by the CDC. While City facilities are restricted to the public, City employees will report to work, using various methods including telework and rotating staff to ensure continuity of government. Staff will be available to answer phones and keep citizens informed. All essential City services (like police and trash) will continue to be provided and residents will continue to be informed on the status of this evolving situation. The caseworker and counselor may have to communicate with you via telephone or other means to keep you, them and our community safe.

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The safety and health of our residents and our staff is of utmost importance and we will be doing everything in order to minimize this threat in our community.

The following is important information for our residents.

SENIORS

Seniors are encouraged to take extra care. Programs offered by the Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program that take place in City facilities are cancelled. GAIL staff is arranging to offer counseling services over the phone or through other methods.

All remaining City of Greenbelt winter and spring classes and special events for the month of April have been canceled. Essential programs for seniors such as the Food and Friendship program and Produce Distribution will be carried out, but with some changes. Arrangements have been made to facilitate distribution of meals to the residents who need them. Please call the City offices if you have a specific need or question at 301-474-8000.

GREEN RIDGE HOUSE

Green Ridge House management will remain on site in an effort to provide continued service to residents.

- Green Ridge House Service Coordinator, Flora Li will be working from the City Administration building until further notice. She can be reached at 301-412-2480.
- Green Ridge House Counselor, Glenda Willis will continue to provide services to all residents at their scheduled times via phone. If any additional residents would like to make an appointment please call her directly at 301-832-6295. We understand that social distancing can be a stressful event. Please do not hesitate to contact her for support.
- Meals from Prince George's County Food and Friendship Program will continue with frozen meals being delivered once a week starting Monday, March 16th. A seven day supply will be provided at no additional charge to current program participants.
- Meals on Wheels deliveries will continue as scheduled and emergency food packs of shelf stable foods will also be provided the week of March 23, 2020 to be used if food service is interrupted in the future.

GREENBELT POLICE

The Greenbelt Police Department is prepared and equipped to continue their service and protection of the community. The police lobby will be opened, but please use common health guidelines if you need to enter, and please do not come to the station if you are not feeling well. We must do everything to protect the health of those who protect us. If you feel sick in any way and feel like you have symptoms of the Coronavirus, CALL YOUR DOCTOR. They are trained

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to tell you what your next step should be. Please do not use the Police Emergency number for this. Those lines need to stay open for emergency police action.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works will continue to collect recycling and refuse during this emergency. Public Works will be detailing more of its staff to the deep cleaning of facilities during public restriction. Public Works phones will stay operational and citizens may call in with their concerns. At this time, the Greenbelt Connection will continue to run. Please do not use this service to transport you if you begin to show signs of the virus.

GREENBELT RECREATION

ALL CITY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WILL BE CLOSED. Outdoor parks, fields, tennis courts etc. will remain open to use at your discretion. All classes, programs, activities have been cancelled until further notice. The City of Greenbelt will be updating its online calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov daily. In addition, the Greenbelt Recreation Weather and Information Hotline will be updated daily. Please call 301-474-0646 for the latest information.

GREENBELT CARES

Greenbelt CARES will be contacting all of its clients over the next week and arranging for telephone counseling and video tele-counseling. The City is aware that this is a scary and trying time for everyone and will use all of its technological resources to continue this important service. Please call 301-345-6660 to reach Greenbelt CARES. Although the City Office is restricted, staff will be available to Greenbelt residents.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The Prince George's County Department of Social Services representative will be out of the office until further notice.

FINANCE OFFICE

The Finance Office will have rotating staff and will only be able to take drop-off refuse, tax payment etc. through the drop box slot on the side door of the Municipal Building. The payment method of choice for this emergency will be through the mail. Late payments will be excused during this time.

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL

At this time, Greenbelt City Council will continue to meet, but will be using teleconferencing and video conferencing at times. Meetings will be broadcast on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and streamed at www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv. Please check the Meetings Calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov for the status of these meetings.

PLANNING

Inspection services will be scaled back to consider the safety of our inspectors. Director is looking into ways to safely provide other services. Phone service will be available.

The City of Greenbelt's number one priority is the safety and wellness of all of its citizens. We recognize that these measures are a disruption to your daily lives, but they are necessary for the good of everyone. Please stay safe, stay well, and stay informed. Our website at www.greenbeltmd.gov, our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cityofgreenbelt and twitter page will be updated often and daily. In a severe emergency, the City is also prepared to use its alert system. We thank you for your cooperation and understanding. Let's take care of each other.

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