

Correction to our recent
COVID19 Update Number 5 - May 1, 2020
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As the calendar turns to May, all eyes are turning toward Memorial Day and the summer of 2020. Here's what we know so far from recent meetings of the Town's Emergency Management team and Select Board. A reminder that the emergency management team [meets on Zoom](#) every Tuesday at 10 am. The next Select Board [meeting](#) is May 12th at 6 pm.

- The Governor has continued the stay at home advisory in Massachusetts until at least May 18th. The town is waiting to see whether this will be extended further and whether it will continue to prohibit short-term rentals. Once they are allowed, several issues will need to be worked out including how to clean appropriately between renters, etc. Airbnb already requires at least 24 hours between rentals to allow for cleaning, and will be offering [information on enhanced cleaning protocols](#).
- The Select Board voted on April 28th to close the back parking lot at White Crest to cut down on day visitors over the summer. The front lot has 138 spots, which are reserved for town residents and visitors purchasing stickers, which will only be for sale online. The back lot, with 176 spaces, is for paid for on a daily basis. Last year, nearly 7,000 people paid to park at White Crest Beach, netting the town \$198,000 in revenue. All beach parking lots will have approximately 25% of the spaces unavailable for parking to reduce the density of people on the beaches. If beach goers fail to observe social distancing, that percentage could be increased. For more details on this, see the [April 30 statement](#) from the Beach Director.
- The concern is overcrowding and lack of social distancing in the parking lots and on the beaches, which has already occurred on warmer spring weekends.. Decisions made by the Governor, the National Park Service and other Cape towns over the next month will affect what happens in Wellfleet and will be subject to change. "It is a moving target," as one Select Board member put it.
- Select Board members noted that even if they limited parking at other town lots, visitors would inevitably park in town, in the woods, along sandy roads, etc. Neither police department nor the CCNS has the resources to enforce no parking regulations.
- Parking will be on the agenda again at the next BOS meeting on May 12th.
- The 4th of July parade has been cancelled. Use of town property for special events will not be allowed; for example, there will be no weddings or yoga on the beach. Oyster Fest, too, has been cancelled.
- The 2020 Annual Town Meeting will be held on October 5th at 6 pm; town elections will be on June 15th. There are no contested races for the Select Board. Use of absentee ballots for the Town Meeting was

discussed and left unresolved for the time being.

- The deadline for payment of property taxes was moved from May 1 to June 1.
- Restaurants and stores, which hope to reopen, are working with the health department to ensure the safety of workers and customers.
- The transfer station will resume single stream recycling soon. Check their [website](#) for updates.

In other news:

- The Wellfleet Farmers Market will open on May 13th under new social distancing/safety rules, see the following [link](#).
- The town sent out this advisory: "The Taxation Aid Fund Committee reminds you to please consider adding a voluntary donation to the Fund when you submit your tax payment. The Fund makes awards to our lower income seniors and the disabled, to help pay their property taxes. This year will be most challenging for our needy residents, and we anticipate a much higher number of applications. Your generosity over the past years has kept this important program running and is greatly appreciated. We certainly understand that this year may be difficult for you as well, but we will be very grateful for your participation; no amount is too small.

Please write a separate check, tax deductible, to the Taxation Aid Fund, when you pay your property taxes. Remember, donations are acceptable anytime, so even if you have already paid your taxes, you can still make a contribution"

- [SPAT](#) is buying oysters and clams to distribute to food pantries and kitchens to help with hunger relief and the difficulties facing the shellfishing industry, which has been hard hit by the closing of restaurants around the country.
- The housing authority asked us to share that information about what is happening around affordable housing is available from the housing [newsletter](#).
- The library is looking into purchasing Wi Fi hot spots around town to give residents and visitors greater access to the Internet.

WSRA has wonderful programs planned for the summer. We will be exploring how to present them, perhaps on Zoom. Stay tuned.

As Fire Chief Rich Pauley put it, "the summer is full of unknowns"

Susan M. Reverby, WSRA President