

TOWN OF WAREHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
MULTI SERVICE CENTER, 48 MARION ROAD
WAREHAM, MA 02571
(508) 291-3130

Greetings from the Staff of the Wareham Council On Aging!

The Wareham Council On Aging is a Town Department whose mission is to provide services for seniors in our community. We are in the Multi-Service Center, located at 48 Marion Road. Due to the coronavirus the Senior Center is closed to the public, however we are still working and will continue to work onsite and remotely from our homes. If we can be of any assistance to you, please call 508-291-3130. If you do call, and a staff member does not answer the phone, please leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible.

Today's letter is to provide Wareham seniors with information and resources that may be helpful to you during these difficult times. Residents are urged to stay home to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. If you must go out wear a mask, this can be something homemade, a bandanna or just a cloth to cover your nose and mouth. Maintain a 6-foot distance between yourself and any other person you encounter. Wash your hands often. This virus is highly contagious and can be deadly, never let your guard down.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES:

Nutrition:

Old Colony Elderly Services delivers "Meals-on-Wheels" to seniors age 60 and over and disabled adults. Call 508-584-1651 to inquire and/or request these meals be delivered to your home. If you have difficulty getting through call the Council on Aging at 508-291-3130 and we will assist you.

Food Pantries:

1. Church of the Good Shepherd- 74 High St., Wareham. Takeout meals are available for pickup on Thursdays from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. For further information regarding the Pantry's hours of operation please call 508-295-2840.
2. St. Patrick's Church- 82 High St., Wareham. Offers food delivery only. Please use only if you do not have any other transportation or food service options. For more info call 508-295-2411.
3. Damien's Pantry- 3065 Cranberry Highway, # B 20, East Wareham. The pantry is open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.

* As of March 30th, please call ahead as times and dates may change. Please call 508-295-3486.

SNAP (food stamps):

To apply for SNAP benefits go to DTAconnet.eohhs.mass.gov to complete an application online, or you may call 877-382-2363. If you are having trouble getting through to them, please keep trying as during off-peak hours these sites are experiencing much higher than usual usage.

Grocery Shopping:

We suggest you shop for two weeks at a time to minimize the amount of time you spend in the store. If you can have a friend or relative shop for you. Be sure to wipe down your grocery items with sanitizer wipes when you get them home. Delivery services such as Instacart are now

backed up for several weeks, but you can reserve a spot now and plan for future deliveries. Stores are stocking shelves regularly. For more information call (888) 246-7822.

Plymouth County Sheriff Office Safety Assurance Program:

This is a program that is free to all Plymouth County residents. It is a computerized telephone system that places a phone call to a participant at a prearranged time each day between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 12 noon to make sure the person is safe. To enroll call 508-830-6200.

Prescriptions: CVS and Walgreens are delivering prescriptions at no cost.

Transportation:

GATRA provide rides to and from stores, doctors' offices etc. Transportation can be arranged by calling 800-483-2500 or you may view the bus schedule online, go to gatra.org

Fuel Assistance:

The deadline for applying for fuel assistance is April 30th. The Council on Aging is not accepting fuel assistance applications at this time due to the coronavirus and applications cannot be mailed to you. To apply for fuel assistance, call the South Shore Community Action Council at 508-746-6707 and select option #2, you must listen to the entire message before you will hear the option for speaking with someone so please, please be patient.

Unemployment Benefits:

To apply for unemployment benefits go online to <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-unemployment>

You must call on a day that is designated by the last digit of your Social Security number Monday is 0 or 1, Tuesday is 2 or 3, Wednesday is 4,5 6, Thursday is 7,9,9 Friday is any number.

Government Stimulus Checks:

Congress recently passed a bill to provide cash payments. Individuals will receive up to \$1,200, couples \$2,400 and \$500 per child. Payments would decrease incrementally for individuals with adjusted gross income of more than \$75,000.00. Individuals who have submitted their taxes electronically will have money deposited directly into their bank account. It is unclear how the money will get to everyone else, if checks are mailed it could take weeks or even months. The Treasury Department and the IRS have announced that Social Security recipients who do not typically file taxes will not have to file a return to receive stimulus payments. At this time, tax preparation has been discontinued in the Council of Aging. All previously scheduled tax prep appointments have been canceled. The IRS has extended the deadline until July 15, 2020.

Watch for your delivery of the Senior Beacon Newsletter and local Wareham newspapers for updates.

If you or someone you know lives alone and would like to hear a friendly voice on the other end of the phone, please call the Council on Aging @ 508-291-3130 and we may be able to provide you with a "phone pal" someone to talk to when you're feeling lonely (or not).

Stay well. Be especially careful during the duration of this virus. In the meantime, keep in touch by following us on Facebook! We look forward to welcoming you back to the Senior Center in the very near future.

Your Friends at the Council on Aging.

Posted: April 8, 2020

