



Message from the Mayor

March 26th, 2020

Good Evening,

I don't need to tell you what a challenging time this is for everyone. Hourly employees, parents, our children, the elderly, health care providers, grocery store workers, homeowners, renters, business owners, our first responders and officials in all levels of government are facing issues that just a couple of weeks ago we could have never imagined. This is a crisis and we are all in it together.

This past Saturday our Governor issued an executive order instructing us to stay at home and shelter in place. But, if you do have to go out, you should continue the social distancing practice of staying 6 feet apart. I am confident that our community will continue to demonstrate the discipline necessary to weather this storm and to protect each other until this is over.

In light of Governor Murphy's executive order to close all parks, and in response to people who continued to gather in our parks, we had no other choice but to close all playgrounds, fields, and our skatepark with the exception of the areas that promote passive recreation. Steinhauer Pond and Collins Lane Park will both remain open for walking or jogging, but we ask that you still observe the social distancing requirements if others are there. We have sectioned off areas and placed signage indicating the closures. The township will be monitoring for compliance with these directives daily, and we implore our residents to adhere to these restrictions.



Message from the Mayor

The Burlington County Department of Health provides us with daily updates as to the confirmed cases in our county. *As of today, we have NO confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Maple Shade.* With additional testing kits and testing sites becoming available, the County is starting to see a significant increase in confirmed cases on a daily basis.

While our Municipal Building will remain closed, our staff continues to work. We have implemented a flexible work schedule which includes a work from home option where possible. This change to our normal work environment is an effort to keep our staff, their families and those who do business with the township healthy. We are encouraging our residents to utilize our online payment options and will waive the \$1.05 fee for those choosing to pay their tax and utility bills using E-Check. You can also continue to place your payments in the Drop Box located at the front of the Municipal Building.

Even as certain parts of daily life must change during this time, our township is working hard to keep as many services available to our residents with as little disruption as possible. Your patience is greatly appreciated.

It is important to note that the Maple Shade community has been incredible. The camaraderie and helpfulness that this community exudes is even more evident now from food and resource donations to Drive-by Birthday Celebrations to Easter Bunny visits and shared information for home schooling or children's activities and jokes and distractions via social media. These are just a few of the great things that Shaders do during times of need. Please continue to support our local businesses and give a big Thank You to all who are out there working to give us some semblance of normality. Please keep up the positives so that we can make it through this trying time.



Message from the Mayor

Our first priorities are to protect the health of this community. So for now, we implore you all to heed the warnings and practice social distancing. Stay home, but if you must go out to buy food or medicine or to exercise, please remember to WASH YOUR HANDS when you get home.

There will be many questions to work through in the days and weeks ahead. We don't have all the answers yet. But, we are working hard and with creativity, to navigate through all the detours this crisis throws our way. We are grateful for the actions that our staff and first responders have already taken to protect our community, our neighbors and our elderly population. We will need much more of this practice of personal responsibility and sacrifice in the days to come.

Thank you for your continued support and to all our residents,

PLEASE STAY SAFE !

Mayor Claire Volpe