

Town of Guilford

*223 Marble Road
Guilford, NY 13780*

Tel. (607) 895-9966

Fax. (607) 895-6042

July 2, 2020 (updated July 31st)

Dear Town of Guilford Residents:


COVID-19 has impacted many facets of our lives. It was with reluctance after careful review of the Department of Health guidelines that the Town Board canceled our Summer Youth Swim and Arts and Crafts programs and closed the Guilford Lake Beach for 2020. The town hall and town court have now reopened to the public. Guidelines for entering the town hall are posted on the town's website and bulletin board by the main entrance to the building. The Mount Upton Park has also reopened. The scheduled "tractor pulls" are not open to the public. The pavilion may be used for groups of up to 50 – social distancing is required. Park bathroom will be opened for groups that reserve the parks and will be sanitized after use. The playground is open. Please be advised that the town does not have the ability to sanitize playground equipment each time it is used. You may want to sanitize the playground equipment your child will be using. Please **do not** throw your garbage in the Barbeque Pit – "Carry Out What You Carry In". The park's basket ball court may be used to shoot baskets but at this time Department of Health Guidelines do not allow playing basketball games.

The financial impact of **COVID-19** on the town is significant. The town receives a share of county sales tax. In 2019 the town received \$407,000 in sales tax. Current estimates project a 32% reduction in sales tax for 2020. The town highway department receives CHIPS, PAVE- IT NY and EXTREME WINTER RECOVERY money from New York State. (the 2020 amount: \$286,000.00) The town was told to expect a 20% reduction in funding this year. State highway funds are a reimbursement – you have to spend it first – submit bills and canceled checks to be reimbursed. As courts have reopened we are required to have the court security officer monitor everyone entering the courtroom. Previously the court security officer worked one night per month, not every time court is in session. No revenue was generated by the courts when they were closed. A portion of court fees collected are used to offsets court expenses for the town. The overall economic impact of COVID-19 currently is an unknown. As the process of developing the 2021 budget has begun my goal is to continue to present a budget that is under the tax cap.

As Chenango County has moved into Phase 4 Re-opening there has been an uptick in the number of COVID-19 cases and quarantines. Please be safe when out and about.

Please contact me at the town hall 895-9966 or email guilfordsupervisor@frontier.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


George Seneck, Supervisor
Town of Guilford