



March 27, 2020 - *News for You*



# TOWN OF FREEPORT

MUNICIPAL BULLETIN

## Changes in Town Government & Services

Freeport public buildings are closed to the public and have been restricted to as-needed/emergency access only. **Residents have the ability to complete many regular transactions online.** A list of online transactions can be found at the following website: <https://www.freeportmaine.com/online-payments>. If you need assistance with a Town service or function that is not available online, please contact the appropriate department at the following numbers (or by email), and we will attempt to complete your request remotely. Many employees will be working remotely and will have the ability to check their email and voice messages during that time, so please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Town Hall - 865-4743

Public Safety Building - 865-4800

Public Works - 865-4461

At this time the **Freeport Recycling Center** will remain open on its regular schedule. Employees have been ordered not to handle your materials, and to maintain appropriate distancing from customers for their safety. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience that this may cause. Additional guidelines for facility users will be posted at the entrance to the facility. We ask that you observe any temporary rules or guidelines that are posted at the facility.

By order of the Town Council, all **Town Council, Board, and Committee meetings have been cancelled** until at least 04/28/20.

## Winslow Park Restrictions – Effective 3/27/20

In an effort to prevent overcrowding and the congregation of large groups within Winslow Park access to Winslow Park will be limited for day use until further notice.

The main park entrance past the gate house will be closed to vehicular traffic until further notice. Park users are directed to park at the gate house parking lot (by the boat ramp). If parking is available in this lot, visitors are welcome to enter the park. If this parking lot is full, the park is considered to be at capacity, and no further admission will be allowed. If the park is full, visitors are encouraged to return at another time.

Please keep in mind that weekend afternoons are particularly busy at the park, and we expect that access will be limited at these times due to high demand.

Within the park, the playground and group meeting areas will be closed until further notice. All visitors are required to maintain 10 foot spacing from everyone other than immediate family members. Visitors are encouraged to spread out throughout the park, and to avoid congregating heavily in any particular area of the park. If park staff witnesses violations of this policy, users may be asked to leave the park.

We understand that these restrictions may be inconvenient, however recent heavy crowds and gatherings of larger groups within the park have been observed by park staff. These crowds and gatherings are contrary to recommendations of the Maine CDC and the Governor's Office to maintain appropriate distance, and may endanger the health of other park users. We hope that these preventive steps will address these concerns, so that the park may remain open for people to use safely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Freeport is here for you! During the COVID-19 pandemic, if you find yourself in need, these local organizations will focus on providing the following services:

Need	Organization	Contact Information
Food, medical equipment loans & emergency needs	Freeport Community Services	(207)865-3985 x 205 slundin@fcsmaine.com
Food for anyone 18 & under	RSU 5	(207)865-0928 x 223 foodhelp@rsu5.org
Heat, rent, CMP & financial assistance	Town of Freeport	(207)865-4743 x 120 jhanselman@freeportmaine.com
Miscellaneous urgent needs	Freeport Friends	(774)212-0269 Tawni.whitney@gmail.com
Business Assistance	Freeport Economic Development Corp.	(207)865-4743 x 117 kmcbride@freeportmaine.com

Not sure where to call? Dial 211 to be connected to someone who can help.

If you think you may have COVID-19, please contact your primary care physician.

**In case of emergency, please dial 911.**

## Veteran's Assistance

There is also a program for any veteran, active duty, reserve or national guard member who is experiencing a financial setback due to the negative economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Grants are available to support one month of payments up to \$1,500 for rent/mortgage, auto loan/lease, utilities. For more details go to:

<https://penfedfoundation.org/apply-for-assistance/coronavirus-emergency-financial->



## TOWN OF FREEPORT - MUNICIPAL BULLETIN

### Vehicle Registrations Extended

Please be aware that the Secretary of State has stated that during this time of civil emergency, Motor vehicle and trailer registrations, including all temporary registrations and any fuel use decals that expire during the state of emergency will be extended. This applies to registrations issued by municipalities or the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, and also to temporary registrations issued by dealers. The State of Maine recognizes the need of individuals, families, and businesses for transportation, work and commerce during the emergency. These registrations can be renewed after the emergency ends.

Registrations issued by a municipality, including temporary registrations, are deemed extended until 30 days following the termination of the state of emergency pursuant to P.L. 2019, ch. 617, F-1, emergency laws approved by the Governor on March 18, 2020.

Other registrations, including temporary registrations, will be extended until 30 days following the termination of the state of emergency pursuant to the emergency provision of 29-A MRSA 405(4).

**Remember that renewals can be done on line, and rest assured, the Maine State and local police have been notified of the extension on expired registrations as well as on inspections.**

For the most up to date, accurate, and unbiased official information on the COVID-19 pandemic, we recommend that residents read and closely follow the guidance provided by the Maine and US CDCs:

**Maine CDC**

Website: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/>

**US CDC**

Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

### Library News

Free wifi is available outside the Library. You no longer need a password, so if you park in the driveway circle area, you should be able to connect to their wifi service.

The Library staff is also working on developing an easier way to stay connected to a variety of resources for children, adults and teens. This should be up and running next week. Starting next week, check their Facebook page for updates!

### An urgent notice from the Town of Freeport, on behalf of our friends at the Freeport Sewer District:

We realize that recent shortages of toilet paper may lead to people needing to be creative with their use of bathroom products, but PLEASE do not flush products other than toilet paper down the toilet. Although some products such as wipes and napkins may be advertised as “flushable”, they cannot be processed at the Freeport Sewer District pump stations. Heavier items such as paper towels, cloth towels, rags, and the like are NEVER flushable. Recent use of such items throughout Town has resulted in several emergency call-ins by Freeport Sewer District maintenance personnel in order to clear blockages and prevent sewer backups and overflows.

If we all do our part, we can keep the sewerage where it belongs... in the pipes and pump stations underground!

If your job has been negatively impacted by the current coronavirus, you may be eligible for the extended unemployment benefits in the recently passed Stimulus Package. To apply, go to [www.File4ui.com](http://www.File4ui.com) or call 1-800-593-7660.

The Train and Information Center is closed until further notice. The Downeaster train is running on a modified and limited schedule. Tickets may be purchased at [AmtrakDowneaster.com](http://AmtrakDowneaster.com).

In light of recommendations from state and federal health authorities, many Freeport businesses have modified their business operations to include online ordering, takeout, shipping, curbside pickup, and delivery options, as well as special offers for gift cards and future purchases.

We thank them for the tremendous efforts they are making to protect the health and wellbeing of the general public.

Please consider supporting local businesses during this time, if you are able. Our friends at Visit Freeport are maintaining a fairly comprehensive list of businesses that are offering alternative shopping options and special offers, which can be viewed at: [https://www.visitfreeport.com/freeport-businesses-covid-19...](https://www.visitfreeport.com/freeport-businesses-covid-19.../)