



April 13, 2020 - News for You



TOWN OF FREEPORT

MUNICIPAL BULLETIN

Please note that the March 27, 2020 Municipal Bulletin is also being attached along with today's edition. All the information concerning available resources and Town services printed in the March 27th Bulletin continue to be the same, with the exception of the Amtrak Downeaster train service which has been temporarily suspended through April 30th.

Good Things Happening Around Freeport.....



Freeport Friends organized a calling program and volunteers to check in on friends and neighbors, reassuring folks that Freeport is a community made up of people who are looking out for one another. So far 2,198 calls have been made by 49 volunteers. Requests for assistance were provided, including one volunteer (Town Councilor Piltch) helping to set up a new computer so the person who lived alone did not feel so isolated. Thanks to Tawni, Leslie, Meghan and Melanie for this program and for the concern and caring they once again have shown for their community members;

LLBean has been helping with food distribution and making masks;

North Sails Shop (South Freeport) has been making masks;

Doherty's Store in North Freeport has been sending pizza to healthcare workers at MidCoast Hospital;

Maine Craft Distilling, owned by Freeporters Kim and Luke Davidson, donated \$3,000 to the Full Plates, Full Potential Emergency Fund to help sustain access to healthy meals for kids. They also altered part of their distillery operations to make hand sanitizer and offer it at VERY low cost.

And to all the other wonderful acts of kindness we are hearing about and to the ones which go unnoticed, thank you for showing that Freeport is truly a community that cares.

Freeport Grocery Buddy Program



Freeport is launching the Freeport Grocery Buddy program to assist our senior neighbors over 65 and those with autoimmunity illnesses during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Freeport Grocery Buddy Program is here to assist these residents who do not have help in physically getting to the grocery store to shop for food or other essential items or to deliver the items they have ordered through Bow2go. The Freeport Grocery Buddy program will allow our older residents or those with autoimmunity illnesses to take extra precautions during this time by not having to worry about having to go to the grocery store.

Eligible residents will purchase Shaw's or Bow Street gift cards in \$50.00 increments through the Town by paying with a credit card and share their prepared shopping list with a Town employee. A volunteer will pick up your list and your purchased gift card(s) from Town Hall and make arrangements with you to drop off your items. If you have already purchased your items through Bow2go and only need your groceries picked up and delivered, volunteers are ready to help with deliveries only as well.

If you would like someone to shop for you: Please call 207-865-4743 x121 and leave a message with your name and phone number if you are interested in this service. A Town employee will call you back to walk you through the process step by step.

If you would like someone to pick up your groceries and deliver them to your house from Bow2Go: Please call or email Melanie Sachs at 207-299-6825 or email melaniesachsforme@gmail.com.

For more information about the Grocery Buddy program, go to www.freeportmaine.com.

Town Clerk News

The **June 9th Primary Election** has been moved to July 14th. Absentee ballot requests are available now and may be requested through the normal avenues as explained on our website. To order electronically go to: <https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl> All Commercial shellfish licenses and Harraseeket Parking permits should be submitted through the mail this year by April 30th. FMI 865-4743x123

Notice Regarding Tax Bills Due May 19, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Freeport Town Council has voted to waive any application of late payment interest on the May 18, 2020 tax installment for 30 days until June 18, 2020. Please note the due date of taxes is still May 18, 2020; however no interest will be charged on this installment until June 18, 2020.

Should you have any questions please call Finance at 865-4743 x106.



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From the Freeport Sustainability Advisory Board

April 22nd will mark the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. The State of Maine had planned to implement a state-wide ban on single-use plastic bags on Earth Day, 2020.

However, in response to COVID-19, the implementation has been postponed until Jan 15, 2021.

Here are 10 ways to celebrate Earth Day, while following Maine's Stay at Home order:



1. Calculate your carbon footprint online [carbon footprint](#) and find ways to decrease your footprint.
2. Create an Earth Day poster with your kids, take a photo and send it to Natural Resources Council of Maine nrcm@nrcm.org. They'll share artwork on their website.
3. Start seedlings for a vegetable garden.
4. Decrease the waste you generate by following the 3 R's: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Use ecomaine's 'Recyclopedia' to learn more about what's recyclable and what's not. [RECYCLOPEDIA | ecomaine](#)
5. If you don't already compost, start now. Convenient, free compost drop-off sites are located behind the Freeport Public Safety Building and at the Freeport Recycling Facility. More info here [Yard / Food Waste Composting | Freeport ME](#).
6. Reduce your plastic waste. [Eight Easy Ways to Reduce Your Plastic Waste | Audubon](#)
7. Consider how best to reuse and recycle your old clothing. [Purging Your Closets? Don't Stuff All Your Old Duds Into a Trash Bag. | NRDC](#) (But remember that the Freeport Community Center's drop-off site is currently closed.)
8. Try a new meatless recipe [incorporate more vegetarian and vegan meals](#).
9. Find out how much you can save by using LED lightbulbs [Maine Residential Energy Efficient Lighting Solutions | Efficiency Maine](#).
10. Learn more about the harmful effects of pesticides and fertilizers and how you can best care for your yard and garden. Here's just one resource: [cascobay.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Does-your-lawn-care-professional-BayScape-compressed.pdf](https://www.cascobay.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Does-your-lawn-care-professional-BayScape-compressed.pdf)

Library News

While the Freeport Community Library is closed, they have created a new FCL virtual library with links to online eBooks & eAudiobooks, helpful resources, new YouTube videos and more. Visit

<https://sites.google.com/view/freeportlibrary> for more!



During this time, there will be no late fees and no fines will be collected. Please hold on to any library items that you have at home. When the library reopens, we will ask you to return the items then.

What can I do to help? –

You can help support the Freeport Food Pantry – either cash donations or donations of non-perishable food items are welcome. Items in particular need right now are peanut butter, soup, and cereal.

Activity Directors at our two nursing homes have said that their isolated residents would love to receive cards and pictures. Cards can be sent to:

Sara Grover, Activities Director
Bella Point (was the Freeport Nursing Ctr)
3 East Street
Freeport, ME 04032

Michele Lamare, Activities Coordinator
Hawthorne House
6 Old County Rd.
Freeport, ME 04032

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.../>

Please be aware that criminals are attempting to exploit COVID-10 worldwide through a variety of scams. Some words of advice from our Police Department: If someone is calling and you don't recognize the phone number, DON'T answer the call. They might leave a message or maybe not, but there is no urgency to answering a call from someone whose number you don't recognize. If you are unsure about the call, go with your gut. Hang up and don't answer if they call back. If your date of birth, Social Security number are important pieces of information they want to know about you, don't share it with them. The FBI has a page with information regarding scams: <https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/protect-yourself-from-covid-19-scams-040620>. FMI & to report fraud see attached.