



Village President's Message—Vol. XXX

March 31, 2020

Dear Fellow Residents,

As we enter our second week of home confinement, I would like to again thank you for following the Governor's directive to remain in your homes as much as is possible. Reported cases grow by hundreds every day and projections indicate that we haven't yet reached peak rate for infection. Undeniably, it will be harder to do so as time goes on but it is more important than ever that everyone limits his or her time out in the community. We do now have several cases of COVID-19 in our community which requires continued vigilance by us all, regardless of age. The advice from public officials is that we all should assume that the virus is present in our town and act accordingly. The best advice is Stay Home/ Save Lives.

Both Sears and New Trier students will be "back in the classroom" albeit virtually this week. This should provide more structure to our young people's days.

Both Governor Pritzker's and Mayor Lightfoot's offices have been stellar in their communication with municipal leaders. Twice weekly conference calls cover a wide range of issues and provide in-depth information that we can then pass on to our residents. With that introduction, there are several updates from the Governor's office that are noteworthy.

Income Tax Filing and REAL ID Deadline

The filing deadline for Illinois' Income Tax returns has been extended from April 15th to July 15th. This aligns with the new Federal deadline. If you are due a refund and apply by the April date, your refund will be processed promptly.

Also, the deadline for needing an Illinois REAL ID driver's license or ID card has been extended from October 2020 to October 2021. This is the mandated identification required for domestic air travel in the future.

Appeal for Health Care Professionals

The Governor has requested that all licensed health care professionals in the state register for an alert system which may ask them to respond, if available, to a significant disaster or public health emergency. Please go to [Illinoishelps.net](https://illinoishelps.net) to register.



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Village President

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Governor Pritzker has appealed for retired health care professionals including physicians, nurses, physicians' assistants and respirator therapists to return to work during the current emergency. More information can be found at the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation's web site idfpr.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

For those citizens without a medical background, particularly our college students who are now home, the state has set up a website to coordinate volunteer opportunities in organizations that are following CDC guidance with citizens who want to help. This is not a "free pass" to violate the "Stay at Home" order. It is an opportunity for people who are healthy and looking to help. Please go to serve.illinois.gov if you would like to become involved.

One of the most significant needs during this crisis is for Personal Protection Equipment (PPE's). Hospital workers and first responders are desperate for items to protect them while caring for patients. Governor Pritzker has appealed for local businesses that may have stores of PPE's to consider donating them. If you would like to contribute your supplies please email PPE.donations.illinois.gov.

Giving to Those in Need

In addition to a health emergency, we are also dealing with an economic crisis. As you will already know, there were a record number of applications for unemployment insurance, ten times the number from the previous week. Many who have been living from one paycheck to the next, now find themselves facing an uncertain and frightening future. Governor Pritzker announced that a partnership between the state, the Illinois United Way and the Alliance of Illinois Community Foundations has led to the formation of the Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund. This 501(c)3 fund is a statewide effort to support not-for-profit organizations that sustain those most affected by the pandemic. Initial donations already total \$23 million but additional donations are welcome. If you would like to contribute, please go to ilcovidresponsefund.org for more information.

Relief for Small Businesses

The state also has set up grants and loans programs totaling \$90 Million for small businesses affected by the pandemic. These funds are available now. A \$60 Million Fund will support low interest loans of up to \$50,000 for businesses of less than 50 workers and \$3 Million in 2019 revenues in any industry. A special Hospitality Emergency Grant Program has also been established. This new \$14 million grant program aims to help small hospitality businesses make ends meet, providing up to \$25,000 to eligible bars and restaurants and up to \$50,000 for eligible hotels. These grants are available to support working capital – like payroll and rent – job training and technology to support shifts in operations, like increased pick-up and delivery. The state's coronavirus web site Coronavirus.illinois.gov web site has the details for both small business programs.

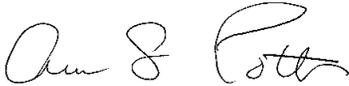
IN CLOSING, if you have managed to get to the end of this letter, bravo and thank you! I know there is a lot of information here and not all of it pertains to everyone in our village. Still it is the best way to communicate what our state is doing to deal with the biggest challenge for our times.

Please continue to keep those who are manning the front lines in this battle in your thoughts and prayers. Those who work in our hospitals under the most difficult of circumstances, the first responders who answer a call for help without question, child care workers who are there so those

who are essential in these times can do what they need to do, our teachers who continue to teach our children, business owners who are weathering economic disruption and those in government who are making the difficult decisions to keep us safe.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. While we don't yet see the end of the road, it is clear that we are all traveling in the same direction and for that you have my heartfelt gratitude.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ann S. Fott".

Ann