



GREATER STONEGATE VILLAGE

NEIGHBORLY NEWS

www.greaterstonegatevillage.org

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Message from Dr. Robert Ramsey, President of Greater Stonegate Village:

I am writing to you with some important updates on Greater Stonegate Village operations given the impact of COVID-19, as well as some resources that might be helpful to you. The good news for the day is that fewer than 2 in 10,000 Montgomery County residents have been infected with COVID-19. If we continue to practice social distancing and wash our hands frequently we will get through this!

Village Services

Greater Stonegate Village (GSV) operates as a volunteer organization. We have been successful up to this point because of the generous support of many volunteers, including those who provide rides and other services to our members. Just like all the other organizations and businesses you have probably been hearing from, we, too, are very concerned with the well-being and health of all of our members and

volunteers. To this end, we are suspending all in-person activities until further notice. We will be introducing some new virtual events.

If you are truly in need of some service Greater Stonegate Village normally provides but which is not currently available, please contact us anyway. We have been working closely with the Montgomery County Village Office to learn about all ways they can help us. Rides are particularly a problem because all of our drivers are over 60. Also, it appears that our insurance does not cover us for liability with respect to COVID-19. We will do our very best to direct you to alternate options that may be available through other resources. Please give us as much notice as possible and maximum time to work with you. Please feel free to contact us at 240-918-7989.

Join Us in Welcoming Wendy

I am pleased to announce that Wendy Finn joined Greater Stonegate Village this week as our Executive Director. In that role, she will provide the Board of Directors,

Committee Chairs, and members with support and guidance with programs, membership, volunteers, services, communications, fund raising, and the expansion of the GSV. Wendy brings an extensive background with nonprofit organizations to the position. I hope she will have a chance to say hello to each of you in person very soon, but for now please feel free to reach out to her at wendy@greaterstonegatevillage.org.

Grocery Shopping and Delivery

There are a number of options for groceries. I used Instacart last week and got delivery the next day. It is more expensive than going to the store but also safer! The county has good advice for grocery shopping at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS/Resources/Files/COVID19GroceryStores.pdf. One of our younger Stonegate neighbors has volunteered to shop for Village members who can't get out. Call us at 240-918-7989 to work on this if you need that service. You can pay her when she delivers the groceries.

We hope to enlist more neighbors to help with picking up groceries. In addition, if you need assistance with online grocery ordering, please reach out to wendy@greaterstonegatevillage.org. The following stores offer grocery delivery options but hours and availability may be very limited due to high demand. Also, their status is very dynamic. If you are not successful placing an order or getting the items or the delivery time you want, keep checking back and you may be more successful the next time.

- Instacart: A grocery delivery service working with Aldi, Costco, BJ's,

Target, Safeway, Wegmans, and other local stores:

www.instacart.com/

- Peapod: The grocery delivery service run through Giant: www.peapod.com/
- Amazon Fresh: A grocery delivery service for Amazon Prime members: www.amazon.com/alm/storefront?almBrandId=QW1hem9uIEZyZXNo
- Whole Foods Market provides delivery through Amazon: www.amazon.com/alm/storefront?almBrandId=VUZHFdob2xIIeZvb2Rz&ref=US_TRF_ALL_UFG_WFM_REFER_0422447
- Walmart Online Grocery Delivery: <https://grocery.walmart.com/>
- Target Grocery Delivery: www.target.com/c/shipt/-/N-t4bob?Nao=0
- Freshdirect: www.freshdirect.com

You may also want to check out these tips for handling groceries when they arrive at your home, www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjDuwc9KBps.

Transportation

While the Village is unable to provide rides at this time, you can find more information on other alternatives to help you get to essential appointments at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Transit/seniors.html.

Virtual Events – Coming Soon

The GSV Events Committee is in the midst of planning virtual education programs and get-togethers and we will announce the schedule very soon. The programs will take advantage of Zoom, a very easy-to-use video conferencing program. If you haven't used it before, you can get a preview at www.youtube.com/embed/hIkCmbvAHQQ?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc_load_policy=1. For those who don't have Internet access, there will be a call-in option.

Senior Call Check Program

The GSV is very pleased to provide friendly callers to check in with you by phone or text regularly. To sign up, please call 240-918-7989 or email winakurs@gmail.com or me at robertramseymd@gmail.com. In addition, you can sign up for a new program offered by the Maryland Department of Aging, called Senior Call Check. The program will provide you with an automated call every day. These calls will take place within a time frame you chose. If you don't answer the first call, you will be called two additional times on the same day. If those calls go unanswered, an alternate person, you select, will be notified. This alternate could be an adult child, a neighbor, or anyone designated as a reliable contact. The alternate will be asked to check on the participant. For those who do not have an alternate or whose alternate is unresponsive, the state will call local law enforcement to conduct a wellness check. The program will also provide messages and updates regarding the COVID-19 outbreak and where to find support if you need it. Registration is required and can be completed by calling toll-free 866-50-CHECK (866-502-0560) or visiting www.aging.maryland.gov.

County Needs Your Input

Will Jawando, Council Member At-Large launched a survey to allow you to raise any concerns, suggestions or questions you have related to the COVID-19 health crisis and our county response. You can access the survey at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdCyp_Tp4tdGkvf3BE0g4KITqO4I1WBbxrdPU3rIEvm3m7cQ/viewform.

Your Feedback

We welcome your feedback on how Greater Stonegate Village can support you at this difficult time. Again, please feel free to contact us at 240-918-7989.