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Dear Friends:

Winter has turned to Spring in our beautiful Village. Bulbs planted in the Fall have stretched through the dirt to find the sunlight. Buds on the trees will soon be lush green leaves. The beauty and grandeur of nature is a constant in our evolving, ever changing, and often chaotic world.

As I write this letter, it is not quite clear what will happen next related to the coronavirus health crisis. We do know, based on the Governor's Executive Orders, NY is on PAUSE until April 29th. All of our lives have been put on hold in an effort to protect our neighbors and loved ones who are most vulnerable and to ease the burden on our healthcare system. I am reminded of the motto emblazoned on the crest of our Village: Integrity is the Strength of Citizenship. I can think of no greater example of integrity than all that we are collectively doing in support of others. I know the people of Mount Kisco have the strength and compassion to endure our current circumstances. I know too that when the time comes, we have the passion, creativity, and talent to restore our Village to being a center of thriving economic strength.

While all of our lives have been turned upside down, some of our neighbors and friends have experienced tragedy and hardship. Some have lost loved ones. Others are severely ill. Due to the closing of non-essential businesses, many find themselves in a dire financial situation. This is a time when we all need each other most. Please check on a neighbor. Make a phone call. Send an email or a letter. If you have the financial resources, please consider making a gift to local non-profits that are assisting those in need.

During this challenging time, your Village government has continued to operate uninterrupted. Though Village Hall and other facilities are closed to the public, we are delivering services remotely. Garbage and recycling collection continues on the standard schedule. For the current time, please just put out household trash. We will schedule pick up for bulk items at a later date.

Below is a list of how to access Village services.

- Non-emergency police - (914) 241-1100 or (914) 864-7700
- Assessor and information on NYS STAR program - assessment@mountkisco.ny.gov or (914) 864-0017
- Building Department - buildingdept@mountkisco.ny.gov or (914) 864-0019.
- Court - court@mountkisco.ny.gov (914) 241-7033
- DPW including sanitation, water, and highway - (914) 666-8193
- Library - <http://mountkicolibrary.org/> or (914) 666-8041
- Recreation - recreation@mountkisco.ny.gov or (914) 864-0032
- Registrar including birth, marriage or death certificate - cnesbitt@mountkisco.ny.gov or (914) 864-0014
- Tax bills should be paid by check and mailed to: Village/Town of Mount Kisco, P.O. Box 5088, White Plains, NY 10602. DO NOT MAIL CASH. Questions? taxreceiver@mountkisco.ny.gov or (914) 864-0034
- Water bills should be paid online or sent by mail. Directions on both methods of payment are included in this mailing. Questions? aforzano@mountkisco.ny.gov or (914) 864-0029

Leonard Park remains open for solitary or family exercise. We appreciate that the vast majority of residents have abided by the Governor's Executive Orders to maintain a safe physical distance from others. In rare instances, when necessary, police have provided guidance on safe behaviors that limit the spread of the virus.

We do not yet know if we will be able to move forward with our summer camp programs or if we can open the pool. We will share information and scheduling as soon as it is available.

Though it is challenging to forecast revenue for the new fiscal year which begins June 1, the Board of Trustees is on target to adopt a budget, by May 1 as is required by state law. Every budget is a prediction based on assumptions founded in past activity. We find ourselves in a unique situation for which there is no prior example. However, we do have a clear understanding of Village expenses and financial commitments. We have reduced revenue projections in many areas including sales tax and parking fees. Thanks to the work of Village staff and prior administrations, Mount Kisco is in a strong financial position. We have money in reserves which can be used for contingency should the need arise. We shared in October, the additional \$4 million approved by voters for fire house construction would result in a 3.5% Village tax increase. Our Village Manager, Treasurer, and department heads have worked aggressively to find ways to keep expenses down. Their diligence has allowed us to cut that increase to 2.91% for the 2020/21 fiscal year.

Work continues on the Woodland Street water project as it is considered an essential project under the State guidelines. The new water line has been installed and is scheduled for testing, and work has begun to replace the storm water infrastructure on the street. The work will continue through the spring and also include sidewalk replacement and road resurfacing.

Final work is being completed on the bid documents for the Green Street Fire House project. We expect to have responses back in the beginning of June. Start of construction is dependent on the status of the health crisis. The Mutual and Independent Fire House design plans and bid documents are being revised.

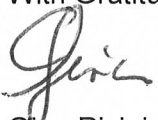
Engineering plans are complete and documents have been prepared to bid the first phase of our streetscape project. This includes new sidewalks, pavers, granite curbs, and landscaping around and behind Village Hall, through Shoppers Park, and along the Branch Brook. We estimate the cost of this first phase to be approximately \$1.5 million. Though this project is part of our Capital Plan, we have decided to delay the bid until we have a clearer understanding of the state of the economy when businesses are permitted to reopen. We anticipate moving forward with much renovations at the Fox Senior Center and repaving the tennis courts when construction restrictions are lifted.

The County Board of Legislators is evaluating a new law that would reduce penalties for those who pay their County tax bill after the April 30 due date. Under the proposed measure, penalties for late payments from May 1-May 31 would be 0.5% instead of the current 2%. If taxes are paid from June 1 to July 15, penalties would be 1% instead of the current 5% rate. If approved by the County Board of Legislators, this would provide some relief to property owners who might have difficulty paying their County tax bill by the due date.

Village Board of Trustees and Planning Board meetings continue to be broadcast on FIOS channel 20 and Altice channel 40. Additionally, we are streaming these meetings on Facebook Live. Updates and resources related to Coronavirus/COVID-19 are available on our Village website at mountkisco.ny.gov under Quick Links and on Facebook at Village of Mount Kisco.

This week our first responders cheered and thanked the staff at Northern Westchester Hospital. Our neighbors are working at the market, gas station, and in other essential businesses. Village staff continue to do their jobs to ensure the delivery of essential services. All of these "every day heroes" are an inspiration and remind us that our Village is an extraordinary place because of the remarkable people who selflessly serve others.

With Gratitude,



Gina Picinich
Mayor