

May 28, 2020 Addendum to Spring Garden CDC's April 30, 2020 Updated Covid-19 Neighborhood "Navigation Guide": Helping Residents & Small Businesses Weather the Current Crisis

The following are May 28, 2020 additions to the April 30, 2020 update of SGCDC's Covid-19 Neighborhood "Navigation Guide". Click [here](#) to access the Guide and previous Addenda, or go to www.springgardencdc.com or www.sgcaphilly.com.

The Guide is intended to help both residents and businesses "navigate" the difficult new environment we are living in, under the Covid-19 closures and pandemic.

Included below is information about potential voting by mail problems, a mail-in ballot drop off box located outside the south side of City Hall to make sure your vote gets received in time, polling places in Spring Garden for the June 2 primary, and a variety of other issues for navigating unique conditions resulting from the pandemic.

Voting By Mail in the June 2 Primary, Check Your Ballot Status! Deposit Your Ballot in an Election Drop Box Outside City Hall vs. Mailing It to Be Sure It's Counted

There is some fear that many PA voters may not receive their mail-in ballots in time to mail them back and have them received by their election boards by June 2, the date of the primary election. **The ballot must be received by the election officials by 8:00 PM on June 2; postmarks don't count.** You can check the status of your ballot request by going to www.pavoterservices.pa.gov. **Philadelphia has also set up a drop box outside the south side of City Hall, next to the Octavius Catto statue, for voters to deposit their completed ballots UP UNTIL 8:00 PM JUNE 2 instead of mailing them. (It looks like a mailbox with American flags). Use the drop box to be sure your vote counts if you only just received your ballot.** Other drop boxes are being set up around the City. Efforts in court, and with the legislature, to have votes counted if they are postmarked by June 2 have

been unsuccessful to date. *If you voted by mail but aren't sure if your ballot will be received in time, you can go to your polling place on election day and request a paper provisional ballot. You may not just cast a normal vote. Your provisional ballot will be counted once it is confirmed that you didn't also vote by mail.*

There Will Be 2 Polling Places for all of Spring Garden for the June 2 Primary, Both Shared with Other Communities

Spring Garden will have only 2 polling places for the June 2 Primary Election: At St. Andrews Church Hall, at 19th and North Streets, for the entire neighborhood west of 17th Street, and at Ben Franklin High School for Spring Garden voters living east of 17th Street. Ben Franklin will also serve as a polling place for many other neighborhoods as well, and St. Andrews will also serve some areas North of Fairmount Ave. They are expected to be crowded. If you aren't voting by mail, or you will need to vote by provisional ballot, see above. Try to pick a less crowded time to vote in person. Wear a mask. Keep a safe distance from other voters and poll workers. Carry hand sanitizer. You can also find your polling place by going to www.pavoterservices.pa.gov and entering your address or calling the City at 215-686-1590 or the Committee of Seventy at 215-557-3600. The St. Andrews polling place is the Church Hall at 19th and North Streets, and NOT the Church or rectory at 1911 or 1913 Wallace St, as improperly listed in some sites.

What's Open and What's Closed, Now, in the Community and the City; What Will Change in the Upcoming Yellow Phase (Starting June 5 if Okayed by the City), and the Ensuing Green Phase

Per an order by Governor Wolf, on June 5, Philadelphia and the surrounding area will move to the Yellow Phase in the State's Plan for reopening the economy, if approved by the City. The stay-at-home order, in place since March 23, will be lifted. In-person retail businesses can open, with certain precautions (e.g., masks to be worn by employees and customers, a limited number of customers in the store at one time, shields at registers), but curbside pickup is preferred. Offices can open for in-person operations, but specific rules must be

followed regarding shared workspace and meeting size, and staggered work hours are recommended. Remote working will continue at some businesses. All businesses must follow State guidance for cleaning procedures and social distancing. Gatherings of up to 25 will be allowed. City protocols for the Yellow Phase will apparently be issues tomorrow.

Governor Wolf has also okayed outdoor restaurant dining with strict controls, again if allowed by the City, and with strict occupancy limits and distance between tables, per the guidelines. There will be no self-service areas, reusable menus, or table condiments. Employees must wear masks at all times; and patrons must wear masks when entering or leaving, and must be seated at tables. The City will issue outdoor dining protocols next week.

For now, restaurants must otherwise remain closed except for takeout and delivery. However, the City is now allowing walk-up ordering vs. pre-ordering of food at restaurants and food trucks. Masks and social distancing are still required, and lines cannot exceed 10 people.

Salons, gyms, and indoor recreation and health venues (movies theaters, massage, bowling alleys, etc.), and entertainment venues (museums, zoos, casinos, theaters, etc.) must also remain closed.

Restaurants may now apply to the Streets Department for a short-term emergency loading zone to enable their curb side pickup operations. The Streets Department will provide the signs. Click [here](#) to apply. The fees will be waived on a temporary basis for restaurant applicants. Contact the Spring Garden CDC for assistance in having the fee waived.

Sites for Expanded Outdoor Dining in Phila., to Accommodate Social Distancing?

The Commerce Department is trying to determine locations on and near Commercial Corridors, and other commercial areas, where streets or portions of streets can potentially be closed to accommodate outdoor dining, if allowed by the City during the Yellow Phase, with proper social distancing. If such a proposal is implemented, it would be good news for local restaurants, that must remain closed, for now, with take-out and curbside delivery, only.

Green Phase: The City will potentially be allowed to move to the Green Phase if there is a decreasing rate of Covid-19 infections “for at least 2 weeks”; if not, it will remain at Yellow. **In the Green Phase, restaurants, salons and gyms can reopen, but with limited capacity.**

Zoning Hearings for previously scheduled matters are still cancelled through June 17, 2020, with no new re-scheduling dates provided. Additional postponements beyond June 17, 2020 could also be ordered. ***However, there is also some thought that the Zoning Board may go to a form of virtual hearings, although it is hard to see how that could work in any hotly contested matters.***

The Philadelphia Historical Commission Has Begun Holding Remote Proceedings for its Architectural Committee, Historic Designation Committee, and full Commission meetings. Go to the Commission website for information about upcoming matters. <https://www.phila.gov/departments/philadelphia-historical-commission>

Jury Trials and Jury Duty Have Been Cancelled until September 8, 2020: All Common Pleas Court jury trials are cancelled through September 8, 2020. Anyone summoned for jury duty before September 8, 2020 need not report.

Catholic Mass to Resume on Saturday June 6

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has announced that Catholic Masses will resume on Saturday June 6. To date, we have not seen guidelines and plans for how attendees and participants will be kept safe. Other houses of worship will be deciding how to proceed.

Small Celebrations During the Pandemic, Our Local Hero!

On May 18, 2020, Sister Mary Scullion (of Project HOME) Received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of Pennsylvania for her work with the homeless, including during the pandemic. Congratulations Sister Mary!

Alcohol:

Take-out Mixed Drinks May Now be Purchased in the Community, based on a temporary measure enacted into law, at the following local restaurants:

Bar Hygge, Bishop's Collar, Fairview, Fare, Gabi, The Green Room, Green Soul, Kelliann's Bar & Grill, La Calaca Feliz, McCrossen's Tavern, Osteria, Thirsty Dice. There may be others that we are not aware of or that will be starting shortly. The purchases may be from 4 to 64 ounces, in closed containers, up to 11PM. The drinks must be carried in a section of the vehicle with no passengers or driver.

New/Ongoing Restaurant Offerings/Take-Out and Delivery

Area Restaurants Offering Curbside Pickup and or Delivery:

New: Green Soul, at 1410 Mt. Vernon Street, is now offering take-out and delivery, including mixed drinks, Thurs.-Sun. 4 PM to 8 PM. Order online at www.greensoulliving.com.

Ongoing: Area restaurants currently offering curbside pickup and or delivery include: A Mano, Bar Hygge, Bishop's Collar, Brandywine Pizza, Christie's Deli, City View Pizza, Coffee Cream & Dreams, Dunkin' Donuts, Engimono Sushi, Fairmount Pizza, The Fairview, Fare, Gabi, Golden Chopsticks, Green Room, Green Soul, Ipho, John's Pizza, Kansai, Kelliann's Bar & Grill, La Calaca Feliz, La Scala's Pronto, Little Pete's, Luigi's Pizza, Mangia Macaroni, McCrossen's Tavern, OCF Coffee Shop, Old Nelson, Osteria, Parkway Deli, Rybread, Sakura, Santucci's, Starbucks, Stockyard Sandwich Co., Tela's, Thirsty Dice, Umai Umai, Zorba's Taverna. Check their websites and social media for hours, offerings, payment, and pickup and delivery.

Other Local Businesses

Neighborhood Potters, 2034 Fairmount Ave., is offering online sales of their creations, with curbside pickup, or shipping. Go to their website at

www.sandiandneil.com to make a purchase of an item or gift card. If you would like your item shipped, contact Neil or Sandi at 215-236-1617 or 215-439-0893.

Local realtors are currently doing in-person showings and sales again, with strict controls in place, as their restrictions were partially lifted earlier in May. Check with local realtors regarding their procedures.

Extra “PPE Fees” at Business, Doctors, Dentists, When they Reopen? Some businesses, doctors, dentists, have begun charging a PPE surcharge to clients/patients/customers, to defray the cost of having to hire extra employees to deal with the new regulations, and adequate PPE for their staff. The cost of PPE has skyrocketed since the pandemic began.

Summer Gardening, Buy Great Flowers and Supplies Locally: May is the month to start planting a summer garden before supplies run out. **Buy summer plants, potting soil, gardening supplies at Fairmount Hardware, 2011 Fairmount Ave., right in the neighborhood.** See the info above in Masks for ordering.

Groceries:

In addition to **Tela’s Market, Kleins,** and local convenience stores, groceries can also be purchased locally at **Museum Market, 1814 Spring Garden Street** and **Sal’s Produce Plus, 676 N. Broad St.**

Where to Buy Masks, Hand Sanitizer

Wearing masks will still be the norm for most activities outside of the home, for a long time to come, including when entering a business, so we all need a good supply. They are easier to come by now than during the first days of the pandemic.

Fairmount Hardware, 2011 Fairmount Ave., 215-765-5829, has been selling masks from the outset and still has supplies of masks, wipes, and hand sanitizer on hand. Call to order or order online for curbside pickup or some delivery options. Go to www.acehardware.com and select the Fairmount Ave. store.

Staples offers home delivery of a variety of masks. You can also order water and a wide range of home office supplies. It appears that free 1-or-2-day delivery is still available, or same day delivery for a fee. Go to www.staples.com.

Office Depot has masks, sanitizer and plastic shields for sale, online or curbside pickup. Go to www.officedepot.com. Free delivery for orders of \$50 or more.

Health:

Mental Health Services Covered By Medicare: The last 2 months of the pandemic have been a stressful time for everyone, including older individuals. Medicare covers the cost of outpatient mental health services. Call your doctor for more information. Counseling services via telehealth may also be available.

Ordering Necessities Online For Home Delivery

Purchasing Clothes and Shoes Online: At a time when department stores and shoe stores are closed, it is good to have online options when you need to buy clothes or shoes. There are many available, including with free shipping and free, easy no-contact returns. Some old standbys are Lands End, www.landsend.com, Macys, www.macys.com, Madewell at www.madewell.com, Nordstrom when they have a sale, www.nordstrom.com, REI and LL Bean for outdoor apparel and footwear, www.REI.com, and www.LLBean.com, Footsmart for shoes www.footsmart.com. Bathing suits ordered online are probably not returnable.

Home Entertainment, Keeping up on the News

The Free Library of Philadelphia “Hoopla” program offers thousands of movies, e-books, audio books, music, magazines, and other offerings to Library card holders. Go to www.freelibrary.org. You can check out 4 Hoopla items per month. It is compatible with Mac and PC, and mobile apps are available for Android and Apple. There is 24/7 help access. If you don’t currently have a library card, you can still get one online. **Free library cards are available to anyone who**

lives, works, pays taxes or goes to school in Philadelphia. Go to their website to sign up online. Books and streaming movie services are expensive, and this can be a great way to keep up your reading without buying new books while Free Library branches are closed, and to access thousands of movies and many magazines/periodicals at no cost. While you're at it, checkout all the amazing resources the Free Library offers, including in person/on-site services, when the Library is allowed to reopen.

Netflix, Hulu, Brtit Box, Acorn, MHZ and many others provide subscription streaming movies and tv series (and many for free on Amazon Prime).

If you're not a Prime member, Amazon is offering 2 months of free Kindle Unlimited, including Audible, if you apply by June 30. You can read or listen to the books on any device - - a smart phone, tablet, etc. - - you don't need too own a Kindle. Google "2 months of Kindle Unlimited" and be sure to use the 2-month offer. This is a great way to get access to new books, free, for 2 months.

The Washington Post offers free access to Prime members, including student members.

The New York Times, in a partnership with Verizon, is offering free subscriptions to high school students until July 6. High school students must have a teacher invite them, to be able to sign up. Teachers who wish to participate should go to Invite Your Students at the main landing page www.nytimes.com/initiative/highschoolaccess.

New Jobs In Philadelphia, Working Remotely at Facebook?

Facebook has announced that it will be hiring in Philadelphia, starting on July 1, for individuals to work remotely. There has been no news yet as to how to apply.

Covid-19 Testing, Philadelphia Social Distancing:

The City has set up a designated website for Covid-19 testing locations. Go to www.phila.gov/testing. Check each site for their requirements before you go.

Walmart is now offering testing at some New Jersey sites, and will be expanding to other locations. Go to www.walmart.com.

Covid-19 Testing in Spring Garden: You can still get a test right in the neighborhood at Vybe Urgent Care, 1500 Spring Garden. Go to www.vybe.care.

See the Guide and Addenda for additional testing sites.

Meal Kits:

HelloFresh, that has an administrative office at 1632 Fairmount Ave., is offering an online sale of meal kits, delivered to your home. Go to www.hellofresh.com.

Cultural Institutions/Organizations

Eastern State Penitentiary continues to offer interesting online lectures and online Museum Store sales while the site remains closed, go to its website at www.easternstate.org for the lectures and to purchase interesting books, apparel, and gift items at their Museum store.

The Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia is offering fascinating online lectures about historical buildings and issues in Philadelphia. Go to www.preservationalliance.com. Some offerings charge a fee, but it is well spent!

The Barnes Foundation is offering Barnes Takeout, a daily You Tube list of videos on a single piece of artwork at the Barnes. Go to www.barnesfoundation.org.

Financial, Unemployment

The CARES Act provides help with Student Loans: During the period from March 13 to September 30, 2020, student borrowers are allowed to stop making payments for certain loans, under the Act's student loan forbearance plan. Also, interest is being set at 0% during that period for certain loans. Check with your

servicer if you qualify, and what benefits may be available. To find out who your servicer is, go to www.studentaid.gov/login, or call 800-433-3243.

The State Still Has Funds for its Emergency Cash Assistance Program.

Applications will be accepted until June 12, or until the funds are gone, for those adversely affected by the pandemic. To be eligible, your income must be less than 150% of the federal poverty level, e.g., less than \$2,700 a month for a family of three. One-time grants are being provided in amounts from \$400 to \$1,200, depending on family size. To apply, go to www.compass.state.pa.us

Unemployment offices are still jammed, and getting processed for benefits can be challenging.

Mortgage rates have plunged to near-record lows. For those lucky enough to be able to buy a home or refinance an existing home mortgage at this time, this might be the time to act. According to Freddie Mac, the rates for 30-year mortgages dropped to 3.24% and an average of .07 points.

Mortgage Forbearance, Foreclosure Ban During the Pandemic, Foreclosure Assistance, Unemployment, Rent and Tax Rebates, SNAP, LIHEAP. See the May 21 Addendum.

Paycheck Protection Program (“PPP”) Forgivable Loans are Still Available at some participating banks, for the 2nd round of funding authorized by Congress. **Even if you are self-employed and have no “payroll records” per se, you are eligible to apply for a PPP forgivable loan.** Check with an SBA-approved lender.

Paycheck Protection Program Forgivable Loans: Loan Forgiveness Regulations and Forms Have Now Been Issued by the SBA, Submit Through Your Bank. If your business received a Paycheck Protection Program (“PPP”) forgivable loan, regulations and forms for securing forgiveness have now been issued by SBA. Google “SBA PPP forgiveness” to access the regulations and forms. ***It appears that the applications are to be submitted to your bank, that then passes it on to the SBA.***

Education:

Community College of Philadelphia will be offering its classes online for the fall semester.

Keep Kids Entertained at Home, Livestreamed Events

The Phila. Inquirer has provided a list of Livestreams to Keep Kids Happy during the work week, in its May 17, 2020 and May 24, 2020 articles, found [here](#).

The Spring Garden CDC is producing a series of remote art classes. The classes are geared toward the students at Waring Elementary, who have otherwise been without their school art classes since March, due to the school closings, but are enjoyable for anyone. The videos are hosted on YouTube, and can be found by searching “Spring Garden CDC,” or a link to the channel can be found on the CDC’s website at springgardencdc.com.

The Wawa Welcome America 4th of July Celebration Will be a Virtual Event This Year: The City Administration has announced that the City-wide Independence Day festival will be reimagined this year as a multi-day virtual experience, including a July 4 concert that will be televised. It’s not yet clear whether there will be fireworks. Go to www.WelcomeAmerica.com for more information.
