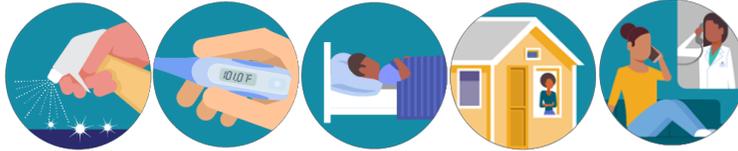


OUR COMMUNITY IS UNITED



LET'S HALT THE VIRUS AND TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER!



NEED HELP? REACH OUT!

THE YARMOUTH COMMUNITY CORONAVIRUS TASK FORCE
IS READY WITH INFORMATION AND RESOURCES
On Facebook or call 207.846.4763

Yarmouth Community Task Force Report

The Yarmouth Community Coronavirus Task Force is a group of community volunteers, service organizations and town departments working to create a network of shared resources to help our neighbors in need. We maintain an active Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/543262112992391/>, and have information on the Yarmouth Cares About Neighbors (YCAN) website (<https://ycan.info/>).

The Yarmouth Coronavirus Community Task Force is a grassroots organization. We work in collaboration with Yarmouth and Cumberland County service organizations to assist with the disruptions and uncertainties caused by the Coronavirus epidemic. We stand together to help the increasing number of people who may experience food shortages, social isolation, medical and transportation needs in the wake of this coronavirus epidemic. We are part of a larger community strategy that has been initiated by our Town Council, our Town Manager, EMS, Police, Fire, and all public servants. It is our goal that we participate in efforts to keep core services open, provide residents with safe ways to meet their needs and work together to mitigate the epidemic and maintain our personal/community health.

The Task Force is evolving and we are constantly evaluating the needs of our neighbors and friends as we plan for the coming weeks and beyond. A list of our partners and participating organizations can be found on our Facebook page or the YCAN site.

The Portland Press Herald did a very nice article about our Task Force and we were delighted that during her briefing on April 14, 2020 that Governor Janet Mills mentioned the Yarmouth Task Force as an example of communities caring for each other.

<https://www.pressherald.com/2020/04/07/maine-acts-of-kindness-effort-to-aid-community-casts-a-wide-net/>

Want to know more about the Task Force: Introduction by Sharon McDonnell
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKKb6Kk-woo>

REPORT WEEK OF APRIL 15th, 2020

This is a summary of our activities by category that we will update every 2 weeks. The names beside the activity are those that are leading it. We appreciate feedback, quotes, stories and photos.

1. The Call Center - Margaret Downing and Tom Downing

The task force staffs a call center to help connect neighbors to needed resources and answer pandemic-related questions (207-846-4763, M-Sat 10 a.m.-2 p.m.). The coordinators have trained 25 people and all 24 shifts for next week are staffed. The Call Center has transitioned from the Yarmouth library and staff currently take calls from their homes. This allows more people to participate including those in quarantine/isolation and to reduce the need to leave home. Office hours for Call Center staff briefing and discussion occur weekly on Friday at 3pm via Zoom. If you have information to share with the Call center please email Margaret Downing. (mdowning@maine.rr.com). The Call Center works to be sure the most up-to-date information is available and referrals are made to services.

2. Food Care and Food Security

Food Pantry (Nancy Gorden and Karyn McNeil)

As food insecurity increases for local families, the Yarmouth Community Food Pantry is seeking both food donations and monetary donations.

Monetary donations may be made on the YCAN website (<https://ycan.info/>).

High priority food items are rice (1 lb bags), peanut butter, pasta sauce, baked beans (non-vegetarian), jelly, cereal, canned fruit, and canned vegetables. Food may be dropped off at the First Parish Congregational Church (116 Main Street, Yarmouth). Drop at the rear door which is on Storer Street. There is a basket for donations. Please call 207-420-1880 with any questions.

Some neighborhood communicators are collecting in their area and are bringing collected items in one run.

Pantry Hours:

Pantry is open for Grab and Go pick up only on Tuesday and Friday 10 am -12 pm. If you are unable to pick up, please ask a friend or neighbor, or you may call the Pantry Cell Phone at 207 420-1880. We will try to assist in any way we can.

Recent communication about the need for food for the pantry seems to be working and we have seen an increase in donations.

A group of food pantry committee members and volunteers have done an incredible job creating a very sustainable process for distributing “Grab and Go” bags. Three very dedicated folks check every day, seven days a week, and take in any food that has been donated during that day.

Meals on Wheels- Michelle Grivois from Southern Maine Agency on Aging Regulations and practices for Meals on Wheels have relaxed to allow them to serve more people with meals delivery. Please contact Michelle to follow up or the Call Center can help you get connected.

Shop-Gap – Dan Ostrye and Karen McNeil + Rotary

Yarmouth Shop-Gap Project. Our goal is to provide grocery shopping and delivery services to help those who cannot get to the store or the Food Pantry themselves. This week Shop gap added pharmacy runs as part of their services. For all services they will be continuously assessing the issues and interest with this.

We have worked through the shopping and delivery process and addressed a lot of the challenges that one can reasonably anticipate. The result is that we’ve developed a number of tools to make this work including:

- **Shopping Lists** – have been developed to follow the layout in Hannaford’s store to streamline shopping and note how substitutions should be handled
- **Shopping and Delivery Protocols** – have been developed using best practices to keep shoppers safe and minimize potential exposures; handle payments (your process will likely be different) and how to coordinate delivery (e.g., we will deliver to door only).

Documents about the Shop-Gap program will be on the YCAN site this week.

Shop Gap founder Dan Ostrye describes the program in a video that you can see here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQG-L70ztaY&feature=youtu.be>

To participate in Shop-Gap call the Call Center.

3. Neighborhood Communicators (Carla Hunt and Laura Ligouri)

There are 54 Neighborhood Communicators divided by areas in Yarmouth. A map of coverage has been published on Facebook and YCAN website. Here is a link:

<http://spatialalt.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=834a2d692e624030a0872213d98d4eda>

Office hours are available M -F from 2-3 pm and Wednesday 4-5pm via Zoom to support the communicators and provide updates about different activities. We continue to actively recruit communicators for 12 additional neighborhoods.

Communicators are creatively reaching out to their neighbors in a number of different ways, door to door, mailings, posters, neighbor to neighbor. They do so carefully but with urgency to be sure that all people are connected.

They are also proactively mobilizing their neighborhoods around areas of need such as collecting food for the pantry and connecting with mask makers who then connect to the Sewing Warriors (Mary Calvin and Caroline Fernandes).

Needs that are surfacing:

- Up to date list of grocery stores, markets, automotive stores, take out restaurant service, hours for elders and vulnerable – Linking with Yarmouth Chamber of Commerce.
- Transportation to Portland for medical and other needs – Discussions underway with local resources.

4. School Activities– Jodi McGuire, Jennifer Charrette, Andrew Dolloff

The Yarmouth School District is maintaining online classes. To provide continuity of service during this time of “stay at home” there are specific activities in collaboration with the Task Force.

Note: Next week is spring break.

Meal Preparation and delivery – Blair Currier

The meal preparation is done under the supervision of the School District. All Yarmouth school kids are welcome to participate with the box lunch program. This helps reduce stigmatization and maintains contact with our families. This week the school district provided 150 meals per day by Wed last week (with 63 at the off school/pick up site) and the rest were delivered to homes.

School supplies and care packages – Jennifer Charrette

In collaboration with elementary school principals and with initial financial support from the Yarmouth Education Foundation (YEF), Task Force volunteers have put together school supply care packages for K-4 Yarmouth children who may not have the basic school supplies to be successful in distance learning. Royal River Books is also generously donating a book for each child receiving a care package. Supplies are being distributed by Blair Currier, Yarmouth School Department Director of School Nutrition, and his very dedicated staff. Please contact task force volunteer Jennifer Charrette (jennifercharrette@yahoo.com or 207-272-4597) or a school social worker if you know of a child in need of basic school supplies. We are also accepting donations of new, unopened school supplies (scissors, rulers, pencils, markers, Crayons, colored pencils, pencil sharpeners, calculators, notebooks, and

drawing paper). Please contact us for specific donation guidelines. A special thank you to Task Force volunteer Carrie Logan. To date, 60 kits of supplies have been delivered. As schools will remain closed for the rest of the year, the number of students needing school supplies is expected to increase. YCAN has generously offered to provide additional financial support.

Yarmouth Student Coronavirus Art Showcase

Task Force volunteer Jennifer Charrette is working with the art teachers at all four public schools on this new project to engage Yarmouth K-12 students in spreading positive messages related to the coronavirus pandemic and to showcase student artwork. Project guidelines have been drafted and, once finalized, will be sent to the school principals and technology administrators for final approval. According to the draft guidelines, designs should be a message to lift spirits, a call to action to help others, a thank you to those on the front lines, a reminder of what we need to do to stay safe and make positive choices (CDC guidelines), or inspire others to make positive choices. It is our hope that artwork will be showcased virtually on school websites, the Task Force Facebook page, and an art blog. Although art teachers were in agreement that this should not be an art competition, local businesses will be solicited to provide gift cards for a raffle. All participating students will be entered into the raffle. The specific timeline for this project is TBD. For more information, please contact Jennifer at jennifercharrette@yahoo.com

5. Contact and Liaison with emergency Services in Town (Tom Downing and Sharon McDonnell)

All Town emergency and government services – including the Town Manager, Yarmouth Community Services, Police, Fire, and EMS-- have participated in the Task Force weekly meetings and are available for consultation.

As our Fire Chief Mike Robitaille says *“Yarmouth Fire Rescue stands ready to help in whatever way you think is beneficial to the fight...or to the educational process”*

Video with the Chief is here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_7etmKND1U&feature=youtu.be

Police Chief Dan Gallant describes changes to their procedures as part of the adaptation to the COVID epidemic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r95adhsald0>

6. Volunteer coordination – Cass Baker

We have over 90 volunteers signed up. Some are already participating in the Call Center and others will be starting with other activities over the next weeks. We want to be sure that volunteers understand that we might not need them right now as we are getting our feet under us but will need their participation in the weeks to come. Discussion about the age of volunteers and which activities can use motivated

responsible individuals is ongoing. Shop-Gap and Food Pantry need persons over the age of 18. Other activities may have more flexibility.

7. Psychosocial Support - Leslie Hyde

We have 8 therapists, chaplains and pastors on call for those who need help. The Call Center seems more set up for physical needs than emotional ones. We offer these services through the Call Center and the Neighborhood Communicators for referrals. Most of the referrals have been people that know the team personally. Calls are being logged on our EFA call log, with follow-up, as needed. More advertising of available services is planned for the Emotional First Aid and any type of mental health or stress support. Leslie Hyde will be participating with the office hours with the Neighborhood Communicators on Mondays from 2-3 for any questions or referrals.

8. Masks and Personal Protective gear – Mary Calvin & Caroline Fernandes
Yarmouth Sewing Warriors is working smoothly. There are 63 members on the Sewing Warriors Facebook page. They don't all sew but they help to get the word out. Caroline has emails for 38 of the sewers. We estimate that we have about 50 people sewing. It's hard to track because I continue to get messages from people that we have never heard of before but who have learned about the group.

We've delivered 284 masks that are on the spreadsheet that Caroline maintains and we've probably handed out another 30 to individuals and small groups. We've distributed about 30 kits of 10 masks. They've been well received. People who haven't sewn in years are picking up the kits and are having good success. My daughter Greta, who cuts all of the fabric, has about 10 kits ready for me to pick up today. We have an enormous amount of fabric. We received our order of interfacing and jersey that we cut up for ties and the metal for the nose. We are set for a long time. It's important to keep all of the sewers motivated. It's so easy to burn out.

The pickup and delivery system is working. Finished masks get delivered to a cooler on Carla Hunt's porch and masks kits can be picked up from a cooler in Sharon's front yard. I pick up the finished masks and make the deliveries. Our last request was from Mercy Urgent Care. I delivered 50 masks to them yesterday. I currently have 90 masks ready for the next requests.

There are also a few highly self motivated people that have been sewing and distributing hundreds of masks in the last three or four weeks. It's not easy to sew all day long.

The Yarmouth Sewing Warriors have their own Facebook page.

How to Drop Off Finished Masks

1. Place your finished masks in a bag or envelope with your name on it.
2. Drop them off at Carla Hunt's house, 3 Church St. in Yarmouth. There is a blue and white cooler, up the steps, underneath the mailbox -- this is the drop location. Access the cooler from the driveway on West Elm St, just around the

corner from Main Street. (There is often a green Toyota truck in the driveway.)

3. Please email Mary and/or Caroline to alert us that you have dropped off masks.
4. If you need your masks to be picked up from your home, email Mary Calvin (maryecalvin@gmail.com) and Caroline Fernandes (caroferndes91@gmail.com).
5. Thank you!!

If You Need Materials

1. If you have already emailed us or inquired about materials, we will get in touch with you directly today.
2. In the future... Request a materials kit from Mary Calvin (maryecalvin@gmail.com) and Caroline Fernandes (caroferndes91@gmail.com) via email (please copy both people).
3. If you need the kit delivered to you, someone will deliver, otherwise we will give you instructions on where to pick it up.

9. Medical and Public Health Response and support- Cass Baker, Sharon McDonnell, Scott Hanson, + Peter Bridgmen, Jane Abbott + Others

We had our first meeting. Cass, Scott, Shashi, Renazzo (sp?) and Jane Abbott will take the next steps about roles that might be helpful. Three considerations are a) translating and supporting CDC and other recommendations for prevention, control, and quarantine.

b. Help with decisions about when to seek care and how to call.

c. Continuity of care for people that are at home and ill (include people recently discharged). We are looking for volunteers. It is our sense that the hotlines for doctor's offices and ER's are quite overburdened. At this point our goal is to better understand what supports are available for people to access testing as needed and to stay at home with symptoms or, to determine needs for medical care.

Collaboration with Yarmouth EMS and physician offices is planned.

10. Communication – Cass Baker, Sharon McDonnell, Whit Ford

Video - Video filming by Winston Connorton and Morgan McDonnell were made including many Task Force members and Town Staff. Videos with Police Chief Dan Gallant, Epidemiologist Sharon McDonnell, Fire Chief Mike Robitaille, Rotary member Dan Ostrye have all been released on the YCAN website and Facebook. In addition, Mary Calvin made a video to introduce the mask making coordination. There are requests for targeted videos with appropriate content that will inform and motivate people of all ages. Please feel free to share with Task Force members and we will review for you.

Press Package - we need an ongoing means to reach out to people that are not using the internet.

Reporting

We will use this report format until changed.

Portland Press Herald interviewed various Task Force members for an article on community action to support COVID-19 prevention and response. It was meant to be a good news story emphasizing communities helping themselves and each other.

The Governor included a description of the Task force yesterday (April 14, 2020) in her briefing about what is happening to deal with pandemic.

Whit Ford has been coordinating YCAN, Town, and Task Force information on websites. He has been tracking the outbreak with a nice spreadsheet and graphics which is linked to YCAN and Facebook.

11. Aging in place and support to older Yarmouth residents - Leigh Kirchner + Michelle Grivois (mgrivois@smaaa.org) from Southern Maine Agency on Aging.

Outreach to the Aging in place participants has been maintained. Ongoing assessment of communication needs to maintain contact with all Yarmouth residents esp. those not on social media or the Internet is a priority. Leigh and Michelle are maintaining contact with programs to assess gaps.

The Task Force offers outreach to management companies and others that support people in congregate living or under strict stay at home orders. Please contact Leigh Kirchner.

CARDS & LETTERS TO BRIGHTEN SOMEONE'S DAY: Yarmouth's Aging in Place program would love your assistance with writing cards and letters that can be sent to our Yarmouth assisted living and nursing homes. Consider engaging your family (of any age) to write simple "Hi Neighbor" messages. Ask the young people in your life to draw a picture or write a simple letter, as well. Whether it's to one person or many, the result may be one less heart feeling isolated and alone. Please send/deliver notes and letters to: Leigh Kirchner, 78 Tenney Street, Yarmouth ME 04096. Please leave envelopes unsealed and indicate if you'd like a reply back.

12. Financial and Accounting -- Current oversight and management via YCAN. Volunteers?

- a. Donations tracking – Art Bell the YCAN treasurer is following this.
- b. Decisions about prioritization
- c. Encouraging donations
- d. Tracking in-kind donations. Note: Cuddledown has donated lots of fabric to the Sewing Warriors. Many Yarmouth Residents have provided flyers and posters to provide information.

The Task Force and YCAN has received \$17,300 since March 13 :

\$11,650 in donations assigned to the Food Pantry
\$5,650 in donations, most are unrestricted so we are assuming they are meant for Task Force expenses.

YCAN has purchases Hannaford gift cards:

- 1) March 17 \$7,050 for the schools
- 2) April 7 \$4,500 (\$2500 for Food Pantry, \$2000 for YCAN)

Expected expenses will be for communication via videos and sign making. In addition we will be purchasing Oximetry units for the medical sub-group to help people as they are ill at home and when they return from hospital.

Because of the generous Yarmouth residents, YCAN is ready to support anyone in the community that needs assistance.

END OF REPORT