



Cazenovia Republican

NEWS

UPDATE

During the current Coronavirus pandemic, the Cazenovia Republican will periodically email the community with important news updates. If you have news related to this crisis, please respond to this email or email editor@cazenoviarepublican.com.

Local agencies team up to provide coronavirus support

In response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), Cazenovia-area agencies are teaming up to create a clearinghouse for local needs and resources.

The clearinghouse will be established at the CRIS (Community Resources for Independent Seniors) office located at St. Peter's Church on Mill Street.

The intent is to establish a central hub that local residents can contact for assistance with needs such as transportation, nutrition, emergency childcare or

other factors created by the state of emergency declared in New York. Volunteers at the office will seek to match those needs with resources available from municipal agencies, local non-profits and individual donors.

Needs related to senior citizens should use the existing CRIS telephone number, 315-655-5743.

CRIS already maintains an active array of services for local seniors that will be expanded to meet current conditions. Those with other needs should call 315-655-9063, provided by St. Peter's Church.

Local agencies or individuals who have resources that may be used to serve others can call either number. The two lines will be co-located so staff and volunteers can maintain a current listing. The office will be staffed from 9 to 3 p.m. daily initially and expand its hours as needed. Voicemail for after-hours calls will be available. Emergencies should be reported to 911.

The call center will be in active communication with local partners including the village and town governments, Cazenovia Central Schools, Cazenovia College, the Chamber of Commerce and local non-profits.

For those community members who find that they are in need of emergency food supplies, CazCares, our local food pantry, can meet this need and can be reached directly at 315-655-3174. CazCares has initiated a curbside pickup of grocery staples in response to the COVID-19 situation. (More below)

Local agencies or citizens who are able to provide assistance to meet needs including, but not limited to, drivers, essential supplies, emergency child care options or financial support are urged to call in. CRIS will also develop a list of ongoing resources and local providers on its website at cris-caz.com. CRIS can be contact at 655-5743 or director@cris-caz.com.

Schools closing Tuesday March 17

Cazenovia Superintendent of Schools Matt Reilly also announced schools, following the guidance of Madison County authorities, will be closed effective Tuesday March 17 until at least Sunday April 12.

More details will be announced as they are confirmed. Citizens are encouraged to visit the Madison County Health Department page for current information at: madisoncounty.ny.gov/2479/Coronavirus-COVID-19.

Statement from Mayor Kurt Wheeler

Mayor Kurt Wheeler shared the following statement on this developing situation:

In response to the pending transition to remote learning by the school and other changes created by social distancing to slow the novel coronavirus, the village encourages residents to support one another. The first line of defense for challenges such as childcare and transportation should be neighbors helping one another whenever possible, a spirit that has always been incredibly strong in Cazenovia. Working in small local teams to assist with supervision of children and other needs will prevent large gatherings and limit the likelihood of transmission.

Recognizing that there will be gaps in this approach, the village in partnership with other local agencies is preparing to meet critical needs created by the state of emergency. Decisions by state and local leaders to close various facilities have been made very thoughtfully and we will continue to work together to serve and protect the community.

More details will be forthcoming over the next few days as the situation becomes clearer. In the near term, our individual actions with regard to hygiene

and illness protocols and social distancing are our best protections to limit the spread of COVID-19.

CazCares announces Coronavirus protocols

CazCares, Inc. is an emergency food pantry serving families in Cazenovia and the surrounding area. CazCares, located at 101 Nelson St. in Cazenovia, provides non-perishable food staples, fresh food items and toiletries to families experiencing food insecurity.

If you are in need of emergency food supplies, please contact CazCares at 315-655-3174 or visit cazcares.org for more information.

In response to coronavirus concerns, CazCares is implementing new protocols for food distribution. This is intended to reduce risk to pantry users and volunteers and to accommodate an anticipated increase in the need for services in the coming weeks. The changes described below will be implemented beginning on Monday March 16, 2020 and will remain in effect until further notice.

To encourage social distancing, CazCares is instituting curbside pickup service for food distributions. CazCares is requesting that clients remain in their vehicles upon arrival and wait for the next available volunteer. Only staff and trained volunteers will be allowed entry into the building.

The CazCares Story Room and Clothing Closet will be closed until further notice. CazCares is not accepting donated items of any kind at this time. This includes donations of food, clothing, or other household items. The CazCares staff and board of directors deeply appreciate the generosity of the community, but kindly requests that individuals refrain from leaving any donated

items at the CazCares facility until further notice. This will allow the organization to focus resources on meeting the more immediate food and nutrition needs of its clients at this time.

The organization will maintain its regular hours of operation, offering food pick-up from 9:30 to noon on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings and from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday afternoons. Any additional hours added to accommodate increased demand in future weeks will be listed on the CazCares webpage.

For more information about CazCares and its programs, visit cazcares.org.

From the Village of Cazenovia: Please Don't Flush Those Wipes!

Sanitary wipes are a big problem when flushed down the toilet. People may be using greater quantities of sanitary wipes to clean surfaces in their homes and businesses. We would like to remind everyone that these wipes should not be flushed down the toilet.

When these wipes enter the sanitary sewer system, they tend to cause pipe blockages that often result in sewer backing up – this is not a good situation, especially when the sewer can back up into your basement.

Sanitary wipes are typically made using strong man-made fibers that do not break down easily - also, if the wipes do eventually make it to the sewer treatment plant, they cause additional problems with pumping and wastewater treatment equipment. In summary, please do not flush sanitary wipes down the toilet. Thank you for your cooperation.