



# Town of Union

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**07/07/2020**

To Whom It May Concern:

The Town of Union will be abiding by the directives given to us by NYS and the governor's office relating to the Covid-19 pandemic. We have been given a phased in timetable as to when it will be appropriate to open up government, businesses and "attractive nuisances" such as our parks and all that that entails.

We have had to re-think and restructure our Park and Recreation plans. This translates to the following changes and inconveniences to our residents and patrons. Our insurance does not cover anything pandemic related, hence our cancelling of anything that would make us a responsible party in spreading the virus. The cost of operating our "normal" programs and events – following guidelines is too great to bear. We have to be stewards of the taxpayers' dollars.

1. All facility rentals at the parks have been cancelled, until further notice. Deposits to be returned.
2. Residents and patrons using our park facilities are **asked and expected to practice social distancing and wear facemasks**, in accordance with the Governor's current guidelines.
3. Any large scale events scheduled for our parks are put on hold as we wait to see how we are moving through the directives. This includes the "Duck Race". At this writing, the race will be held but the event surrounding it is still on hold.
4. All Summer Recreation Programs have been cancelled.
5. All carousels in the Town will be closed until further notice.
6. All Town pools will be closed until further notice.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an horrendous effect on the Town. Beside all of the health concerns and safety precautions, this pandemic has seriously affected the Town's revenues. Only about 1/3 of our budget revenues comes from property tax. Much of the rest comes from sales tax receipts, with other revenue sources covering the balance. Our sales tax revenue is predicted to be about 25% less than we budgeted – which amounts to approximately \$2 million dollars. Our other resources also are down.

We have been aware of this possibility since April and have been taking steps to try to mitigate these losses. We instituted a hiring freeze. In March and April, we were at 50% staffing following governor's orders. That produced several disruptions of services. Due to the shortfalls, we have greatly reduced road, curb and gutter repairs. We have had to furlough 9 part-time and 9 full time employees. We have hired a minimum of seasonal workers to attend to regular maintenance needs – but that is 10% of the normal summer hires. With vacations, furloughs and sickness, we are running short-staffed in many areas.

We regret these decisions but in the interest of public health and taxpayers, we will abide by them.

The Town of Union Board