

What do you say, FHA?

By Marie Palmer, Resident Service Coordinator

Volume 6, Issue 4

July, 2020

www.falmouthhousing.org

T. (508) 548-1977

E. info@falmouthhousing.org

Thank you to Town Manager, Julian Suso, and other town leaders for acknowledging and speaking out against racism; an ongoing cancer within our society. Thank you all for the thoughtful and very needed public statement.

We reached out to Town Manager Suso to get authorization to include the public statement in our Falmouth Housing Authority newsletter. The following is a statement from Mr. Suso:

“The following Joint Statement represents the concerns of multiple Town representatives. I am pleased to be a participant and feel strongly on this issue. It has been issued, appearing on the Town website, and is a public record. I am certainly comfortable with your including a copy of this Joint Statement in your newsletter. All the best and stay safe.

Julian M. Suso”



Julian Suso, Town Manager
Chair, Town of Falmouth Select Board
Chief Dunne, Falmouth Police

Lori Duerr, Superintendent of Schools
Falmouth School Committee
No Place for Hate - Falmouth

Town of Falmouth Joint Statement on Recent Events

As leaders in the Town of Falmouth, we write to share in the heartache that is felt by our community due to recent unacceptable hate crimes, acts of brutality, and ongoing injustice in our country.

We denounce these events and extend our support to all of our black and brown friends and neighbors in our community. Over the past few months, amidst COVID-19, we have been more deeply reminded of the inequities and disparities within our community and nation. We recognize the need to address these systemic inequities and call upon our community to join us as we seek equality, peace, and respect through our words and actions.

We have not overcome disparity. The lives and stories of Christian Cooper, Breonna Taylor, Amhaud Arbery, George Floyd, and the many who came before, demand that we break our silence and have honest conversations about bias of all sorts, including racism. At the same time, we must remain committed to recognizing and uplifting the good in our community. We must continue to embrace our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion to break the cycle of racism and other forms of oppression. Now more than ever, this is the time for us to open our hearts and minds, listen to one another, make amends, nurture relationships, and stand united together in solidarity.

What is the 'Black Lives Matter' Movement?

The Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement began in the wake of the acquittal of the man who killed Trayvon Martin, a seventeen year old, unarmed black person. According to their website "Black Lives Matter Foundation, Inc", BLM is a global organization in the US, UK, and Canada, whose mission is to eradicate white supremacy and build local power to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes. By combating and countering acts of violence, creating space for Black imagination and innovation, and centering Black joy, we are winning immediate improvements in our lives." <https://blacklivesmatter.com/about/>

The iteration of the movement we see today is in direct response to a series of deaths of unarmed black people at the hands of police. The most recent of whom being George Floyd. The movement is calling for systemic change and an end to police brutality.

If you wish to get involved, there are a number of options!

1. Join local organizations such as:

- **NO PLACE FOR HATE—FALMOUTH**

<http://www.npvhfalmouth.org/>

A community organization whose purpose is to build bridges, combat bias based on race, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and religion, and to promote respect for all people through advocacy and education.

- **NAACP—CAPE COD**

<http://www.capecodnaACP.com/>

Founded in 1961, it is our mission to end racial discrimination and segregation in all public aspects of American life.

2. Consider Reading:

- *"How To Be an Antiracist"* and *"Stamped from the Beginning"* by Ibram X. Kendi
- *"The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness"* by Michelle Alexander
- *"The Fire Next Time"* by James Baldwin
- *"White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People To Talk About Racism"* by Robin DiAngelo

3. Consider Watching:

- "The 13th" - a documentary addressing the 13th Amendment and the loophole that has allowed mass incarceration; the modern day system of injustice that perpetuates racial inequality.
- "Becoming" - a documentary from an autobiography by Michelle Obama
- "When they see us" - a mini series, based on the true story about five teens from Harlem who get falsely accused of a brutal attack in Central Park.

Phase Two of Reopening Massachusetts - Started Monday, June 8th

Provided by CBS Boston 6/6/2020

BOSTON (CBS) — Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker announced Saturday, June 6, that Phase Two of the state's reopening process would begin on Monday, June 8. Restaurants, childcare, retail stores, outdoor pools, playgrounds, mini-golf, funeral homes, and summer camps can open with restrictions during Phase Two. "The start of Phase Two is a bright spot for our Commonwealth. It marks progress and will hopefully breathe new life into our economy for more sectors like retail, restaurants, and lodging," Baker said. On Monday, June 8, Baker signed an Executive Order allowing Phase Two businesses to open their establishments enough to begin preparing for their reopening to the public.

RESTAURANTS

Restaurants can open for outdoor dining. Tables must be six feet apart and no more than six people will be permitted at a table. Beer gardens, wineries, and distilleries that serve food can open under similar guidance. Later on in Phase 2, restaurants will be able to open indoor seating.

RETAIL STORES

Retail businesses can open their doors to customers as long they follow safety requirements. Stores will be required to monitor customer entries and exits and limit occupancy to either 8 persons — including staff — per 1,000 square feet of accessible, indoor space, or 40% of the store's maximum permitted occupancy, whichever is greater. Grocery stores and pharmacies must provide at least one hour of dedicated time for adults 60 or older.

"I just ask that you do what you can, we've asked a lot of you, to support your local community and to support your businesses. Our Commonwealth is made up of terrific cities and towns, they're vibrant, they're beautiful, they're our homes. Our main streets and downtowns look very different in these past couple of months. But as we reopen and we restart our economy, it is important that we continue to build strong communities, and buying local, support local, visit local are all things that we can incorporate into our new activities in the upcoming weeks and months," said Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito.

PREVENTATIVE HEALTH CARE

More preventive health care services and elective surgeries can also start up again in Phase Two. "Our health care providers, our hospitals and doctors have pushed off annual exams and procedures like mammograms, colonoscopies, and heart screenings, due to COVID-19. These important medical procedures are green-lighted in Phase Two. Our health care providers have done an incredible job of managing us through COVID-19. And they can safely and effectively manage other health care needs, and we urge our medical providers to reach out to your patients, particularly those with pre-existing conditions or vulnerable circumstances and schedule those appointments," said Baker.

Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders added, "We continue to emphasize the importance and utility of telehealth to the greatest extent possible, as appropriate and feasible. Health care providers should expand in-person services cautiously using clinical judgment to prioritize urgent services, high-risk patients, chronic disease management and preventive care prioritization criteria should promote equitable access to care, particularly for vulnerable populations, hospitals, continue to be required to meet the requirement of having at least 20% inpatient capacity available.

HOSPITAL/LONG TERM CARE FACILITY VISITATION

Starting on June 10, hospitals can allow one visitor at a time per patient. Patients in an ambulance will also be allowed to have one person accompany.

Visitation at the state's Soldiers Home will start allowing limited outdoor visitation on June 15 as long as infection rates remain stable.

Outdoor visitation at adult residential programs and group homes can start up on June 10 and children in youth residential programs can resume outdoor visitation on or before June 30.

CHILDCARE/CAMPS

All children will be subject to health screenings, centers must clean before, during and after programs, staff must wear face coverings and work the same shift. Group sizes will be limited to 10 children.

Each reopening phase in Massachusetts will last a minimum of three weeks. As of Friday, Massachusetts had reported 98,796 confirmed coronavirus cases.

"I think the phased approach has demonstrated that is the appropriate way to go because we've continued to see positive developments with respect to the key measures that we laid out at the start of this process," Baker said.

According to the state, the seven-day average for positive COVID-19 test rate is down 82% since mid-April and the number of hospitals in the surge is down 76%.

Other important Phase Two openings include distribution centers, outdoor recreation facilities, driving and flight schools, and libraries. Personal services that don't require contact, such as photography, can open. Services that do require close contact, such as massage therapy and nail salons, must wait until later in Phase Two.

Professional sports practices and training programs can also start in Phase Two. The Boston Bruins already announced they hoped to get back on the ice Monday, as the NHL moves into its own Phase Two of restarting the league.

A few words and updates from our Community Partners

Community Health Center of Cape Cod

The Community Health Center is shifting most of our medical, behavioral health and substance use disorder visits to virtual visits and the feedback has been very positive thus far. As we are now in the Phase 2 of the re-opening in the Commonwealth.



We are here for you! Offering convenient care through virtual visits.

Community Health Center of Cape Cod is meeting the rapidly changing needs of our community by offering Convenient care through virtual visits.

- Virtual primary care, behavioral health and substance use disorder visits
- Access to emergency dental care in Mashpee and Bourne
- Walk-in care services in Mashpee, six days a week (Monday – Saturday)

It is important to have a trusted health care team to rely on, especially today. CHC of Cape Cod is here for you.

Also, we have also expanded our COVID-19 testing capability to include drive through testing in a tent in our parking lot in Mashpee.

We Can

Women's Empowerment through Cape Area Networking

In the days ahead, our approach is to take rational, proactive measures to reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19 while continuing to meet the needs of the women and families on Cape Cod. We will continue to offer programs and services with the following changes:

- Intake and referral services will be conducted by phone
- One to one legal, work support, and financial empowerment services will be offered via teleconferencing (phone) or video conferencing (computer/phone)
- Small group programs currently underway may continue via video conferencing
- Workshops and programs not yet underway will be postponed and rescheduled as soon as possible

If you are in need of assistance, scheduled for an appointment, or volunteer at WE CAN and have any questions, we encourage you to call our office at 508-430-8111 or email

info@wecancenter.org.



Falmouth Public Library

Outside pickup now available! Reserve items online or call to reserve items. Pickup hours are: Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Tuesday and Wednesday from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Contact us at 508-457-2555; text us at 66746 with "askfp1" or email at info@falmouthpubliclibrary.org.



Falmouth Police Department

Temporary Police Procedures (COVID-19)

In an effort to keep our citizens and first responder's safe from the Coronavirus (COVID-19), we are asking the public to use discretion when seeking police services. As always, the Falmouth Police Department will respond immediately to 911 emergencies and calls for service.

Until further notice, we ask citizens to avoid coming to the police station unless it is an emergency. If you have a situation that can be resolved over the phone by talking with a police officer, citizens are asked to call the business line at 774-255-4527. Please continue to use 911 to report emergencies.

Although we appreciate the support shown by our community by bringing in food, water, etc., we will not be accepting anything at this time as we try to minimize any potential of exposure. These precautions are in effect to limit close personal contact and the spread of the virus. We appreciate your support and patience through these times. We further extend our thanks for your cooperation and understanding.



South Coastal Counties Legal Services, Inc.

SCCLS attorneys and staff continue to provide services to clients during these challenging times. To protect our staff, partners, and clients, our physical offices remain closed. However, in an effort to be accessible to as many people as possible, we have extended intake hours to Monday through Thursday from 9am – 2pm. To apply for services call us at 1-800-244-9023 or fill out an online inquiry at www.sccls.org.



Falmouth Town Clerk

In accordance with COVID-19 Updates on the town website. “Town officials continue to monitor the spread of the novel coronavirus and coordinate regionally to make the best decisions for the safety of all our residents. We understand some of these actions may require some sacrifice on the part of Falmouth residents and visitors. Please know that we do not make these decisions lightly. Taking action now is doing our part to slow the spread of the virus, reduce the number of people infected, and to avoid overwhelming our health care system. Delaying action, or failing to act, could increase the number of Falmouth residents and visitors facing life-threatening illness.” Please note that doors to Falmouth Town Hall are currently closed to the public. If you have questions you can call Town Hall’s main number, 508-548-7611, and your call will be transferred to the appropriate department.



Falmouth Housing Authority Roof & Generator Replacement

The roof replacement project is underway at the Falmouth Housing Authority. We successfully completed the ADA parking lot update project for the admin and apartment building; now we are going to replace the roof and install and generator at the admin building. The impact to incoming traffic should be minimal. For questions regarding this project, please contact the office.

Need a Mask?

The Falmouth Housing Authority has cloth masks available at NO CHARGE for all tenants and participant families of its housing authority programs, including Section 8/Housing Choice Voucher participants. Please contact Marie Palmer at (508) 548-1977 to arrange for a pick up of masks. Up to 6 masks per household can be provided at no cost to you.



STEP 1:
With the nose flap pointing up, place one ear through slit.



STEP 2:
Wrap the mask around the nose and mouth.



STEP 3:
Place the other ear through the slit on the other side.

Mask should sit snugly but comfortably across the face. Adjust fit by changing ear slits if necessary.

Affordable Housing Opportunities:

For all Falmouth Housing Open Waiting Lists:

Visit the Falmouth Housing Authority's waiting list page to apply for open programs by going to www.falmouthhousing.org and clicking in "Section 8" and then "Waiting Lists." Applications should be completed and submitted electronically through FHA's online application portal. To request a reasonable accommodation in order to complete an application, please call us at (508) 548-1977 or e-mail us at info@falmouthhousing.org.

Section 8/Mainstream: The Falmouth Housing Authority is pleased to announce the opening of the housing choice voucher program's Section 8 waiting list - which includes the Mainstream voucher program. For this project, applicants can be age 18 and older. Note: The Falmouth Housing Authority is no longer a participant of the Massachusetts Centralized Waiting List as of 5/1/20. This means that you must apply to FHA's list directly to be on FHA's list. If you have applied to the Centralized Waiting List, do not fear—your application remains with them. You will need to contact GoSection8.com to update your centralized waiting list application. FHA no longer has access to pull or update any centralized waiting list applications.

DIAL - Disabled Individual Adult Living: The Falmouth Housing Authority is pleased to remind you that the special program available on Cape Cod, DIAL, has an open waiting list and is accepting applications. For this program, applicants must be 18 years of age or older and disabled. The vouchers are for studio and one-bedroom units only.

There are a number of affordable housing opportunities on and off the Cape. We will do our best to provide you with information regarding known lotteries and waiting lists. The programs listed are not affiliated with the housing authority. Please contact the program directly for information regarding registration.



Gifford Workforce Lottery:

- 10-One (1) bedroom affordable apartments selected by lottery
591 Gifford Street in Falmouth, MA.

Application deadline, Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 5:00 PM

Lottery, Friday, August 29, 2020 at 2:00 PM at Falmouth Town Hall

- **Affordable Housing for re-sale, 2 bedroom Condominium at \$214,8432**

101 Cherry Street, Unit 30, Plymouth, MA

The Plymouth Redevelopment Authority will be accepting applications this affordable Condominium. Consideration will be given on a first come first served basis.

For more information call Plymouth Redevelopment Authority at 508-747-1620 ext. 10147

Email: Redevelopment@townhall.plymouth.ma.us or visit: www.PlymouthRedevelopment.org

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

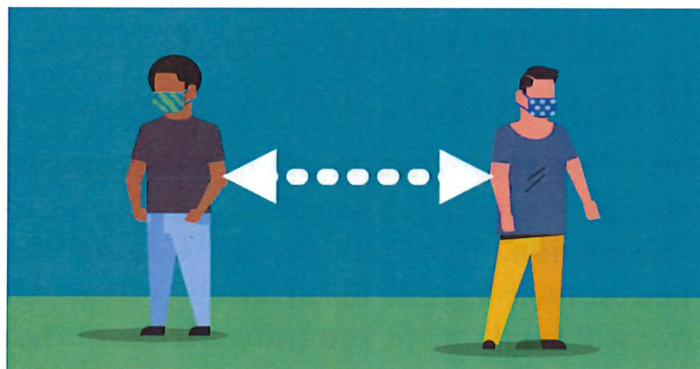
TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2020 via ZOOM.COM

Zoom is a virtual platform. You are invited to call in using your telephone or participate using your smart phone or computer. The call-in number or web address will be provided monthly on the agenda. Need an agenda? Contact the Town of Falmouth Town Clerk so that you are on their agenda notification system. Or email us and, during COVID-19, we will send one to you (info@falmouthhousing.org).

Lack of Social Distancing at FHA public housing properties observed A Message from our Executive Director

At many of our Falmouth Housing Authority properties it has been observed and reported that social distancing is not being observed. Despite numerous signage indicating that housing authority properties require masks to be worn at all times in common areas, tenants and their guests have been viewed entering and leaving the property without wearing a masks. Groups have been observed gathering after hours and on the weekends sitting close together in common areas—against the directive of the housing authority. Even the post office has indicated that mail for our tenants is at risk of being sent to Genera Delivery (this means tenants will have to pick up their mail at the main post office) because of crowding during mail delivery times or demanding that the postal carrier allow tenants into the locked community room space—which is unacceptable behavior. We have been provided with complaints made to government entities inquiring as to who is responsible for setting the rules about the opening of the community room spaces. Laundry rooms and elevators remain open; community rooms are closed and tenants are asked to not linger in common hallways, entrances and exits. As told to HUD and to DHCD, FHA will not reopen community spaces based on tenant pressure and displeasure. Tenants are welcome to leave the property and put their own measures in place to meet up at parks, local restaurants, and other businesses that have reopened under certain conditions.

Until such time that DHCD—the Department of Housing and Community Development, directs its LHAs (local housing authorities) to reopen community spaces, FHA will not do so regardless of tenant pressure. Why, you may ask? This is because DHCD is the entity that directed its housing authorities to shut down all community spaces in March due to concerns regarding COVID-19 transmission. Complaints to or about FHA will not result in FHA reopening the spaces—this is a decision that will be solely made by DHCD for all of its LHAs. We are both amazed and disappointed that tenants want the housing authority to reopen community spaces that allow for opportunities for the transmission of COVID-19 amongst our vulnerable populations. **Massachusetts remains one of the states with the highest number of active cases of COVID-19, and our public housing represents over 70% elderly tenants—which as been identified as a high-risk population.** We, once again, remind all tenants at all public housing properties that community seating and socializing has not been approved by FHA. **All properties remain under quarantine.** Community rooms will not be reopened; group activities have not resumed. Until such time that DHCD—The Department of Housing and Community Development –advises its LHAs (local housing authorities) to open its community rooms, the doors shall remain closed to the public. We ask for your understanding and cooperation as we work to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in our public housing buildings.



Falmouth Health Agent, Scott McGann, Urges Social Distancing and Use of Masks

Over the past several months we have been able to reduce Covid-19 infections substantially at both the state, county, and local levels. The reduction in case counts is a direct result of widespread adoption of social distancing and wearing of face masks. As case counts are rising in others areas of the country, it remains critical that we continue to be diligent in our efforts locally to maintain social distancing, wear a mask whenever we are less than six feet away from any individual who is not a member of our household, and follow the guidance provided by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. That includes wearing a mask if you visit a crowded beach. The last thing we want is to undo the hard work that has been done. Please enjoy all that Falmouth has to offer this season and stay safe.

ACADEMIC PUBLIC HEALTH VOLUNTEER CORPS

At the Beach?

Keep 12 feet!

The lifeguard's job is to protect you in the water. You can help keep each other safe from spreading COVID-19.

- 

Groups should be 12 feet apart to continue physical distancing.
- 

Leave your beach balls at home. There is no ball throwing permitted at beaches.
- 

It's important to wear a mask while you are not swimming.

Make sure to keep your beach blankets and belongings at least 12 feet away from other's.

If the beach looks too crowded, it might not be safe. Try finding another beach or come by a different day.

Source: Berkshire Public Health Alliance. (2020). BOH Forms: #25 Beaches Checklist [PDF File].

FHA Activities Packet

By Marie Palmer, Resident Service Coordinator

7/2020

www.falmouthhousing.org

T. (508)548-1977

E. info@falmouthhousing.org

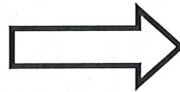
Did you know that doing brain teasers and logic problems can improve short-term memory loss? Challenging your mind with brainteasers and other types of puzzles keeps the connections between your braincells sharp. Learning how to solve brainteasers improves your ability to concentrate and focus.

Brain teasers test your critical thinking skills, they even help you improve critical thinking. You can learn how to solve brain teasers even faster with the more practice you get! And besides... they're fun too!

Congratulations to the residents who submitted the correct answer to the riddle in the last Activities Booklet and got to choose from a variety of prizes.

Riddle me this...

Penny has 5 children.
The 1st is named January.
2nd kid is February.
Her 3rd is called March.
4th is April.



The answer is 'what'

Try your hand at this riddle



Mr. and Mrs. Mustard have six daughters and each daughter has one brother. How many people are in the Mustard family?



Call into the housing authority at 508-548-1977 with your answer.

If you leave a message make sure you give your name and phone number, also leave the time and date that you call.

The first five people with the correct answer to this riddle will get a prize!



Love

is

kind

SERAPH TITUS

Lucille Ball

WORD SEARCH: Find the words/phrases below the puzzle and circle them. Have fun!

A W W C C M B O D P L F H Z Q W V W V L Q
N O S R U O D N A E N I M S R U O Y F A Z
T H F A M B K K P O S B X O A Y N K D U I
C S O T G D E S I A R N A Z E O Z J T G A
B Y T F D P Y S Y C V P Q Z G M H G I H V
O C D R Y E I K D M O X A I J B F H T T I
T U S C I V S A Z T M N S A J W X E O E V
B L H L E C E I Y D R E M K X V M L N R I
S E Y L L H K C L A B E W T S A U N Z T A
C H E Y D I U Y E U S Z E I M H E Y N T N
U T B E C L H I R T S C X L L I Q U G C V
X L R Y S U C Y O I H T U S D D O P V V A
W F A E D U L W L N C C U E I M C U B A N
C R R B L K N E I R Y A M D A O G A A G C
M E V F A S S C V R E O R R I N S T T F E
H D L I S B O E I O C V A D E O Z M R U Y
I M U L K L D C M T L P E R O O S O U J G
M E K M O N A F P X D I R B Q G E C W E M
G R M R K R J F L Z T R E M L E H T E X T
M T J V D Y E L W A R F M A I L L I W T I
R Z P O P R S S E N I S U B W O H S P R V

Babalu
Beverly Hills
Comedienne
Cuban
Desi Arnaz
Desilu Studios
Emmy
Ethel Mertz
Fred Mertz
Heres Lucy

I Love Lucy
Icon
Jamestown
Laughter
Lucie Arnaz
Lucy Ricardo
Mame
MGM
Paramount
Redhead

Ricky Ricardo
Show business
Sitcom
Technicolor
Television
The Lucy Show
Vivian Vance
Wildcat
William Frawley
Yours, Mine and Ours

Did you hear about the claustrophobic astronaut?

He just needed a little space.

What kind of exercise do lazy people do?

Diddly-squats.

What does a nosy pepper do?

Gets jalapeño business!

How do you keep a bagel from getting away?

Put lox on it.

What do you call a rooster staring at a pile of lettuce?

A chicken sees a salad.

Where are average things manufactured?

The satisfactory.

Once my dog ate all the Scrabble tiles.

He kept leaving little messages around the house.

What do you call a parade of rabbits hopping backwards?

A receding hare-line.

What do you call a train carrying bubblegum?

A chew-chew train.

What do you call a magic dog?

A labracadabrador.

I told my wife she was drawing her eyebrows too high.

She looked at me surprised.

What did the bald man exclaim when he received a comb for a present?

Thanks – I'll never part with it!

Why don't scientists trust atoms?

Because they make up everything.

What did the buffalo say when his son left for college?

Bison.

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Candice. Candice who? Candice door open, or am I stuck out here?

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Wooden Shoe. Wooden Shoe, who?

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Mikey. Mikey who?

Wooden shoe like to know!

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Spell. Spell who?

W-H-O

Knock! Knock! Who's there? A broken pencil. A broken pencil who?

Never mind, it's pointless.