

April 3, 2020

Hello,

We are reaching out to you this week with a few updates and reminders about the Senior Van service and the Essex Area Senior Center. Our last mailing to you indicated an update would occur by this time after re-assessing our services and capacities with guidance from the VT Department of Health, Governor Scott and municipal management.

A lot continues to change day-to-day, while some changes become our new normal. The staff from both recreation departments have been connecting almost daily to check-in with recent changes. We brainstorm what that means for our community – especially our 50+ community that we are close with through programs and services.

At this time, the Senior Van Service and the Essex Area Senior Center will continue to be **suspended/closed**. This will continue until further notice. What is so difficult for us as planners and providers is that we don't have all the answers right now and we don't know a new "start" date to look ahead in seeing you again soon.

Our priority remains to keep everyone healthy by limiting exposure in social settings and within our best efforts and control. Please continue to socialize from a distance: avoid crowds and unnecessary travel, stay home, and call friends and family instead of visiting in person.

Over the next few weeks, Nicole and Sammy will be calling **all** Center members and van riders to check in with everyone. They will use the contact information provided in the ridership or membership applications to reach out to you. The information they gather from you will help us provide continued and/or additional service as this "stay home, stay safe" order continues. They miss you dearly and this is one way we can continue to stay connected and be assured you are all doing well during these anxious and hesitant times.

If you need something before you hear from either Nicole or Sammy, please call the Center office line at 802-876-5087 and leave a message. Nicole is checking the messages daily, will call you back and do her best to help with your needs. For additional resources of support during this time, we encourage you to call 211 or AgeWell (865-0360) for assistance.

With that said, Nicole and Sammy have stayed busy with sprucing up the Center with a fresh coat of paint and have left messages in the Center windows facing Rt. 15/Pearl Street. The Center has also been disinfected by our Parks staff using a fogging solution that even helps clean the heating and venting systems. This has been an added protocol to all municipal buildings to help maintain cleanliness. The April newsletter is included with this letter and will be posted on the Recreation and Center websites. If you normally get a copy of the newsletter on site and would like them mailed going forward, please let Nicole and Sammy know when they speak with you.

Please be aware that our websites ([www.essexrec.org](http://www.essexrec.org) and [www.essexvtseniors.org](http://www.essexvtseniors.org)) and voicemail messages (876-5087) will be updated first before contacting all members through mail. We encourage everyone to follow updated information provided by the Center of Disease Control and VT Department of Health. These sites (below) also list common symptoms related to COVID-19 that you may experience if you are not feeling well.

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

**Thank you for your support and understanding – we miss you. Stay healthy!**

Essex Parks & Recreation – Essex Junction Recreation & Parks – Essex Area Senior Center

*Ally Vile*

*Brad Luck*

*Nicole Mone-St. Marthe*