



CITY COUNCIL APPROVES SECOND ROUND OF “MARTINSVILLE CARES” FUND PROVIDING COVID-19 RECOVERY ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES

City Council has unanimously approved a second round of local grants allocating a portion of Federal CARES Act COVID-19 funds to help local small businesses recover from the pandemic shutdown. Grants of up to \$5,000 are available. Applications and information are available on the City website ([View Application](#)) and from City Hall, and must be received by the end of business on October 2nd. Local small businesses are encouraged to apply for these funds.

All residential tenants who are behind on their rent are urged to apply for rental assistance through the Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program (RMRP) which is administered locally by Step Inc., and which has a local office at 6-B Liberty Street. A link to this rental assistance program is at:

https://dmz1.dhcd.virginia.gov/RMRPEligibility/?fbclid=IwAR39sjdZE-iM1TdQUruAcEmxDqCvuBhpHxhkaU41ZEmPJPkrTdr3T7ltL_8

Kathy C. Lawson, Mayor

**CONCERNING THE CORONAVIRUS / COVID-19 PANDEMIC
UPDATED: AUGUST 28, 2020**

A link to an informational page on coronavirus in Virginia has been established on the City’s webpage:
<https://www.martinsville-va.gov/>

Both Governor Northam and President Trump have proclaimed state and national emergencies, and the City has declared a local emergency.

More information on the Governor’s orders, restrictions on restaurant dining, how business is to be conducted, and guidance on social distancing, may be found at
<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/executive-actions/>

The Supreme Court of Virginia has limited operation of Virginia’s courts through September 20:
http://www.vacourts.gov/news/items/covid/2020_0622_scv_sixth_order.pdf

BY COURT ORDER, ALL PERSONS COMING TO COURT WILL BE SCREENED FOR FEVER, AND ASKED A SERIES OF QUESTION REGARDING TRAVEL AND ANY HEALTH SYMPTOMS.

The City of Martinsville has cancelled all events until further notice, which include:

- Parks & Recreation Events and Rentals, although City parks remain open to the public
- Martinsville Fire-EMS tours/events/public visitors/ smoke alarm and car seat installations
- Martinsville Police tours/events and Neighborhood Watch meetings
- No new special events will be issued and any existing permits are being suspended

While City Council meetings are occurring on their regular schedule, public comments from the floor are cancelled until further notice. Citizens desiring to comment may do so by emailing the Clerk of Council at kroberts@ci.martinsville.va.us , calling in comments to 276.403.5182, faxing comments to 276.403.5280, or mailing to P.O. Box 1112 Martinsville, VA 24112, ATTN: COMMENTS.

Comments must be received by noon of the day preceding any meeting.

Other than Court, City Hall is open but will be limited to 50 visitors at a time. Visitors are required to sign in and out of the building. This limitation will remain in effect until further notice. Sign-in requirements will continue in effect thereafter.

ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ENTERING CITY HALL ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A FACIAL COVERING AS DIRECTED BY THE GOVERNOR'S EO-63.

To the greatest extent possible, citizens should utilize online resources for payments, permit applications, and for any other purpose where online service is available. This advice applies to City transactions and private commercial transactions as well.

Persons still needing to make direct payments or applications at City Hall may use the following methods:

All tax and billing payments:	please use online payments, drive-thru window, or dropbox
Commissioner of Revenue:	call 276.403.5131
Voter registration:	call 276.403.5122
Utility service connections:	call (276)403-5146, or email utilitybilling@ci.martinsville.va.us
Building permits:	call (276) 403-5173
Building inspection requests:	call (276) 403-5365
ALL OTHER INQUIRIES:	call (276) 403-5180 & use # directory
CITY WEBSITE:	https://www.martinsville-va.gov/

All essential City services: Police, Fire and EMS protection, trash collection, and utility services remain in operation but are not open to the public.

The City will begin disconnecting delinquent utility accounts on August 31.

To avoid disconnection, delinquent account holders must set up a payment plan with the City to ensure they are able to cover unpaid utility bills. Persons with such payment plans are eligible for financial assistance to reduce what they owe by applying for such assistance through the Department of Social Services.

Local food banks remain open. If a person is in need for food they can text the word “Food” or “Comida” to 877877. For local charitable resources, citizens in need may call 1-866-211-9966 and provide their zip code, to be given a list of local agencies to provide assistance. The United Way has a COVID-19 Community Economic Relief Fund, and will help with bills, rent and food.

DO NOT CALL FOR 911 FOR NON-EMERGENCY PURPOSES. Contact your primary care provider or use available telemedicine resources as the first line of defense. If presenting COVID-19-like symptoms (fever, cough shortness of breath), calling 911 may result in a recommendation for self-care at home.

REMINDER: Symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19) can include fever, cough, shortness of breath (symptoms may appear 2- 14 days after exposure.) If you are experiencing life-threatening symptoms or are having an emergency, please call 9-1-1 and answer all questions as prompted. For non-emergency questions concerning Coronavirus, contact the Health Department at (276) 638-2311.

TIPS TO KEEP YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SAFE:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw tissue in the trash.