



**CITIZENS ARE ASKED TO USE THEIR BEST JUDGEMENT
IN CELEBRATING HALLOWEEN**

While the Chamber of Commerce has cancelled the Uptown Trick or Treat, the observance of Halloween remains up to our citizens. The City encourages all residents, parents and children to use their best judgement and discretion as to what celebrations they wish to attend, whether to go Trick or Treating, and whether to distribute candy.

Coronavirus guidelines and suggestions for the holiday are available at the CDC website:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/halloween.html>

And at the Virginia Department of Health website:
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/blog/2016/10/27/10-ways-to-stay-safe-this-halloween/>

We encourage our citizens to have a safe and enjoyable Halloween.

Kathy C. Lawson, Mayor

**THE APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE SECOND ROUND
OF “MARTINSVILLE CARES” FUND
PROVIDING COVID-19 RECOVERY ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES
HAS CLOSED.**

**CONCERNING THE CORONAVIRUS / COVID-19 PANDEMIC
UPDATED: OCTOBER 14, 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 November 1, 2020:
http://www.vacourts.gov/news/items/covid/2020_0928_scv_order_eleventh_extending_declaratio_n_of_judicial_emergency.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 began 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.**