



Village President's Message—Vol. XXXIII

May 1, 2020

Dear Fellow Kenilworth Residents,

I hope that you and all your families, whether near or far are well and staying safe while we continue to do what is necessary to fight the pandemic and work towards a “new normal.”



Ann Potter
Village President

Masks Now Required

With the start of a new month, comes a new pattern to our lives. While some restrictions have been lifted, new stipulations have also been inaugurated. Starting today everyone over the age of 2 is required to wear a mask when social distancing isn't possible. This requirement is combined with the loosening of restrictions on some retail businesses that may now take orders online or over the phone for curbside pick up or delivery. If you do go into any business premises you will be required to wear a mask. Businesses will be expected to enforce this measure so please help them by following the directive.

Social Distancing Continues

The forecast for the weekend promises probably our best weather so far this year so I know that we'll all see many of our friends and neighbors while we are outside enjoying the sun and warm temperatures. Again, please remember that you will need to keep your social distance when visiting and refrain from congregating in large groups. Our community has been exemplary in following these guidelines and I certainly recognize that, particularly with warm weather and “quarantine fatigue,” this will become more difficult for us all. It's always hard to prove a negative but I can assure you that your commitment to the stay at home order has had a significant and measurable impact on our virus infection numbers.

Composting Initiative

If you are like me, you have been generating a lot more food waste in your homes than in previous months and years. It has been enlightening for me to discover just how many food scraps we have been putting into our landfill and what it means for our environment and sustainability. Now that I know the facts, I find myself feeling guilty every time I throw that banana peel in the garbage can.

The Facts:

- Up to 30-40% of all the food produced (20 lbs/person each month) ends up in landfill.
- Rotting food waste releases methane, a strong greenhouse gas that can last up to 10 years in the atmosphere.
- Nutrient rich organic matter that could be returned to benefit the soil, instead causes damage to the environment and adds to the Village's landfill charges.

Village President

Ann Potter

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847-251-1666

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847-251-2141

Those of you with children at Sears will already know quite a bit about this subject because our school has been committed to composting and educating its students on the issue for several years. In fact, last week Sears won a US Department of Education Green Ribbon Award for its significant sustainability efforts, a recognition that we can all be very proud of.

This coming week (May 3-9) is International Composting Awareness Week, which seems like a good time to make all the Village's residents aware of composting options for home use and to encourage a more responsible approach to waste disposal. [Please visit the Village's web page](#) for more information on how you can begin to compost. I'd like to especially thank Katie Nahrwold and the Sears Planet Panther Environmental Club for their help in putting together this initiative.

Kenilworth's YouTube Channel!

As the weeks have gone by, I recognize that one of the most difficult things to deal with has been the inability for us to gather with friends and neighbors and support each other through the greatest challenge of our lives. To try to compensate for this lack of personal contact we are launching a Village YouTube Channel. We would love for residents to submit brief videos updating the community on what you are doing in your homes, whether it's a tip on keeping young ones entertained, a favorite recipe or book recommendation, a completed jigsaw puzzle or just a message with your thoughts about the day. ***Be imaginative and creative!*** We'll post them for everyone to enjoy on both the [YouTube Channel](#) and the [COVID-19 page](#) on the Village website (vok.org). Please send your videos to info@vok.org.

In closing, I would again like to express my deepest gratitude to everyone in our community who is working to keep us all safe and our Village functioning. Those on the front lines, the health care workers and first responders who deal with crises every day; Village staff both in the office and out on the streets who make sure that the necessary tasks of keeping the Village functioning get done; the teachers who continue to find ways to educate and stimulate our children; but mostly to you for juggling your jobs while taking care of your children; for reaching out to neighbors who might be alone now; for waving and smiling to others when out for a walk. Patience and perseverance is paying off and there will surely be light at the end of this long, dark tunnel.

With warmest regards and a final reminder about those masks!



Ann