We’ve begun making plans to re-open The Groton Center. Below is the first draft of our plan. Please take a look and feel free to call or send an email with your thoughts as we finalize our protocols. Your safety is our first concern!

If you would like to be part of a ZOOM conversation concerning our re-opening please call us, 978-448-1170. Zoom with us Tuesday, May 12 at 10am. If you are unsure how to use Zoom we can help.

The Groton Center will follow all directives of the Town Manager and Selectboard which supersedes anything in this document.

The Council on Aging adds the following provisions for The Groton Center:

1. Anticipated opening Monday, July 6 (subject to change).
2. Masks and a no touch thermometer will be available at the reception desks. We require all participants to check their temperature and wear a mask.
3. Anyone entering the building must have an appointment or be registered for a program. Staff will confirm all registrations and appointments through email. In the event of a question of registration the email will serve as confirmation. Without confirmation, access to the building will be denied.
4. There will be no “drop in” activity.
5. There will be no more than 25 people in the building at one time, excluding staff.
6. Staff will document wiping of public surfaces including; chairs, tables, doors and bathroom stall doors every ½ hour.
7. Appointments to use the fitness center will be mandatory and scheduled every 45 minutes. The user will have 30 minutes in the room and must comply with sanitation process by wiping all equipment used. Only 2 users in the room at once and they cannot be on adjoining equipment and must follow social distancing protocols.

When the Town Manager and Selectboard permit the classroom maximums with proper social distancing are as follows:

- Community Room: 20 for a movie and 24 for a lecture
- Classroom (divider always open): 12
- Exercise Room: 8 for a meeting, not enough space for exercising at a social distance. Exercise classes will be held in the community room.
- Fitness Center: 2
- Lobby: Sitting Nooks 2, Café Tables 4

Only staff will be permitted in the reception area. Meetings between the public and staff will be held in the exercise space by appointment with social distancing protocols in place.

There will not be any meals offered in the building until further notice.

With the fluidity of this situation protocols specific to different programs will come prior to re-opening.
If a story is in you, it has got to come out.
William Faulkner

The Council on Aging invites you to submit your original writing for publication in The Groton Center literary publication.

Send us your stories, poetry or essays.
Send us fiction or non-fiction.

We know you have the time right now so there are no excuses! Deadline Friday, May 8 (But please don’t all wait until then)

Email your submissions to:
gcoa@townofgroton.org

Or snail mail:
Groton COA 163 W Main Street
We will return copies you need them back

Once we have them all we will be publish a hard and digital copies.

Groton Community

The food pantry at The Groton Center is still open to Groton Residents however moving forward, we are referring all further donations to Loaves and Fishes. We have been blessed by extraordinary support of this community and will be able to maintain services with our current donations.

Please call Stacey at the Council on Aging for your confidential appointment, 978-448-1170.

Groton Council on Aging presents

Saturday Night Concert

God Bless America
Dan Clark
The Singing Trooper

Saturday, May 9 6:00pm

On the Groton Channel
Channel 40 on Verizon or Channel 191 on Charter

WE ARE NOT ALL IN THE SAME BOAT
BUT WE ARE ALL IN THE SAME STORM

SUPPORT EACHOTHER
#DONTJUDGE #BEKIND
Classes with The Groton Center

More to come in a few weeks!

Register for any of the classes below by calling The Groton Center 978-448-1170. You will receive your Zoom invitation prior to class.

If you need help getting on Zoom give us a call and we’ll walk you through it. Also, the library is running classes. (see their program at the bottom of the page)

Technology support with Tom Pistorino
By Appointment—call us 978-448-1170
Tom can also work with you by phone.

Pilates
Mondays 9am and 6:30pm
Thursdays 6:45pm
Fridays 8:45am
Please contact Sue directly 978-247-9067 or slbjrobbins@gmail.com

Yoga with Louise
Wednesdays at 10am
$35 for classes May 13—June 24

Joy of Living Meditation
Thursdays 7 - 8:30pm

Writing Creatively
Tuesdays, 10-11:30am

Trivia with Kathy
Tuesdays, May 19 - June 23
1:00pm

Bone Builders
Tuesdays, May 19 - June 30
10:00am

Book Club
Wednesday, May 13 10am
Wednesday, June 10 10am

Craft Class
Wine Bottle Wind Chimes
Wednesday, June 3 1:00pm

Behavioral Health Services
massachusetts.networkofcare.org
Information about resources in your community for children and adults with mental health and substance use needs. Network of Care Massachusetts includes a directory of over 5,000 programs and organizations across the Commonwealth, searchable by keyword and zip code.

Massachusetts COVID 19
SHINE resources
https://www.mass.gov

National Council on Aging
http://www.ncoa.org
Take some time and check out their website and the COVID-19 and

INTRO TO ZOOM with Susanne
Groton Public Library

Wednesdays
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM
ZOOM Meeting
Learn the basics of using ZOOM with GPL reference librarian Susanne Olson! You will learn to join a meeting, schedule a meeting, and trouble shoot issues that arise.

PLEASE SIGN UP to receive your invitation!
If this time doesn't work for you, please email info@gpl.org to arrange a different time for help with Zoom!
Through the generosity of super sewers in Groton we have a supply of masks for distribution. If you are in need of a mask please call us and we will arrange delivery or safe pick up.

Please call the COA, 978-448-1170.

To all the grandparents who are missing their grandchildren. When this is over you can have them for a month. Promise.

www.familiesmagazine.com.au

Generosity All Around!  
We Have Masks Available

Strength Training with Elaine on the Groton Channel

You can continue  
To exercise with

Join us now even if you haven’t taken her class.

Watch The Groton Channel:  
Verizon Channel 40  
Charter Channel 191

Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10am and exercise with Elaine!

This class is made available on the Groton Channel through the COA Formula Grant from the Office of Elder Affairs.

You can also watch the class on demand on your computer or device:

http://schedule.thegrotonchannel.org/Cablecast/public-site/index.html#/show/7983?channel=1

If you would like to borrow weights please call us and we will arrange safe delivery or pickup.

GPL Staff to Groton:  
We’re Here for You!

Need materials? A library card? Virtual group discussion? Homework or research assistance? Are there community resources you need? Let us know how we can help and support you through this time. Call us at:

• Circulation: 978-448-1167  
or circulation@gpl.org (checked 7 days/week)

• Reference: 978-448-8000 or info@gpl.org

• Children’s: 978-448-1168 or kids@gpl.org

Groton Public Library to Go

Curbside Pickup & Groton Delivery

If it’s on our shelves, it’s available to you.

1. Search our catalog to make a list of what you want, or ask us for recommendations. Your choice is limited to what’s available in our building. Do not place holds on items in the catalog.

2. Fill out our online form (the preferred method). If you can’t use the form, email circulation@gpl.org, or call 978-448-1167.

3. Pick up hours 10 am - 2 pm, 7 days a week (or other pre-arranged time, if needed).

Safety: there is no direct contact and staff are wearing gloves and masks at all times and disinfecting the outdoor bin after every pickup. All items are on a one-way trip and are not due until after the quarantine ends.

You can continue To exercise with

You can also watch the class on demand on your computer or device:

http://schedule.thegrotonchannel.org/Cablecast/public-site/index.html#/show/7983?channel=1

If you would like to borrow weights please call us and we will arrange safe delivery or pickup.
TOWN OF GROTON – COVID-19 UPDATE

The Groton Select Board and Groton Board of Health have taken action to further protect the public in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Specifically, the following action has been taken by both Boards:

1. The Board of Health has voted unanimously to ratify the Executive Order of the Governor of the Commonwealth to require that masks be worn in all public buildings, commercial and retail establishments. This Order will be enforced by the Groton Police Department. The Board of Health urges everyone to comply with this directive for the safety and health of the public.

2. The Select Board has voted unanimously to extend Groton’s essential services emergency order to May 18th in compliance with the Order issued by the Governor. Town Hall, the Groton Country Club, the Center in West Groton and the Groton Public Library will be closed to the public until at least May 18, 2020. This order will be reviewed in the next two weeks to determine if it will be extended. The Town Manager presented to the Select Board at their regularly scheduled meeting on May 4, 2020 proposed Protocols for the re-opening of public buildings, as well as a proposal to open the Farmers Market this summer at Williams Barn. The Select Board plans on adopting these protocols at their next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on May 11, 2020. The Protocols will be posted on the Town’s website (grotonma.gov) prior to the meeting.

3. The Town Moderator met with both the Board of Health and Select Board to discuss whether or not Town Meeting will be held on May 18th. At this time, it is likely that the Town Meeting will be postponed and rescheduled for a later date. Please pay attention to future press releases and the Town’s website (grotonma.gov) for updates. The Annual Town Election will be held on June 9, 2020. The Select Board and Town Clerk are strongly encouraging all voters to vote in this election by absentee ballot in the interest of safety. An absentee ballot application can be found here:


A completed application may be mailed to Town Clerk, 173 Main Street, Groton, MA 01450, faxed to 978-448-2030 or emailed to townclerk@townofgroton.org. In addition, in an abundance of caution to protect the Town’s Election Workers and residents participating in the Election, the Select Board has set the polling hours on June 9th from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The Town of Groton and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are taking unprecedented steps in order to reduce the rate of spread by working proactively to reduce transmission and promote public health recommendations. We urge all citizens to exercise appropriate measures in order to reduce the risk of infection. Additional information regarding risk and containment can be found on the CDC website https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/. Thank you for your immediate attention and cooperation with this. We will continue to update the community as information becomes available. Please keep checking the Town of Groton website and social media outlets for updates as they become available.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Haddad
Town Manager
Meals on Wheels is delivering Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Your delivery can also include frozen meals for non-delivery days.

Please call the Montachusett’s Opportunity Council for more information, 978-345-8501 ext. 2

They will set up a program for you and the COA will deliver your meals!

From our Town Clerk: Mike Bouchard

Press Release – Town Election June 9, 2020

Groton’s Select Board has postponed the Spring 2020 Town Meeting and Annual Town Election. The new date for the Town Meeting is May 18. The rescheduled date for the Town Election is June 9. Both these dates are subject to the safety of our environment. Please look for updates and future announcements at www.grotonma.gov.

The Town Clerk is strongly encouraging all voters to vote by absentee ballot by mail for the Town Election to help reduce opportunities for possible person-to-person transmission of the virus. Absentee ballots by mail will be safer for voters and our poll workers. Please strongly consider this voting option. Applications for absentee voting by mail are being accepted now. Once the town ballot is finalized, all applicants will be mailed a ballot. The ballot may be returned by mail or by using the dropbox at the rear of Town Hall. Absentee ballots are kept in a secure vault and are processed on election day. Absentee ballots count the same as a ballot cast at the polls. In these times, absentee voting is safer for all concerned.

Absentee ballot applications can be found on-line at www.grotonma.gov. Search for “absentee ballot application” and follow the link to the Massachusetts Secretary of State web site. Signed absentee ballot applications may be:

- Mailed to Town Clerk, 173 Main Street, Groton, MA 01450
- Emailed to Townclerk@townofgroton.org
- Faxed to 978-448-2030

Thank you for considering this safer voting option. Please contact the Town Clerk’s Office at 978-448-1100 if you have any questions.
Massachusetts Official
Absentee Ballot Application
See reverse side for instructions

Voter Information

Name:__________________________________________

Legal Voting Residence:__________________________________________

__________________________________________

Date of Birth:_____________ Telephone Number:_____________

E-mail Address:__________________________________________

Ballot Information

Mail Ballot to:__________________________________________

__________________________________________

Ballot Requested For:

☐ All elections this year

☐ All general elections (No primaries)

☐ A specific election: _______________ Date of Election

Party (only if requesting primary ballot):

☐ State Primaries:__________________________________________

☐ Presidential Primary:__________________________________________

Special Circumstances (If applicable)

☐ This application is being made by a family member of the voter.

Relationship to voter:__________________________________________

☐ Voter is a member of military on active duty or dependent family member of active duty personnel.

☐ Voter is a Massachusetts citizen residing overseas.

☐ Voter has been admitted to a healthcare facility after noon on the fifth day before the election and has designated the following person to hand-deliver the ballot:__________________________________________

☐ Voter required assistance in completing application due to physical disability.

Assisting person’s name:__________________________________________

Assisting person’s address:__________________________________________

Signed (under penalty of perjury): ____________________________ Date: ____________________________