

Andover Police Department April 2020

Press release

The Andover Police Department handled 188 calls for service during April, including:

- Abandoned Vehicle: 1
- Assist Citizen: 5
- Civil Issue/Stand-by: 11
- Dog Loose: 3
- Domestic Dispute: 1
- Keep the Peace: 1

- Manner of Operation: 4
- Road Hazard/Obstruction: 2
- Selective Enforcement Request: 1
- Suspicious Circumstances: 7
- Theft: 2
- Warrant, Criminal/Civil: 1

Arrests

William O'Mara, 60, Andover: Driving Under the Influence; Domestic Violence; Simple Assault

OPINION

New Hampshire's Fight Against COVID; Testing Available

Wear masks; look for ways to help neighbors

Ken Wells
Representative, Merrimack District 1

As of June 10, the New Hampshire Legislature is back in session again, finally. Since the House of Representatives' 19-hour marathon session back on March 12, the House has been unable to meet. The Governor declared a COVID-19 state of emergency on March 17, locking the State House and the Legislative Office Building. On March 25, the Democratic caucus of the House of Representatives sent a letter to the Governor, imploring him to issue a stay-at-home order to protect the people of New Hampshire and slow the exponential spread of the disease.

Shortly thereafter, the Governor issued stay-at-home orders, followed by many other emergency measures designed to prevent widespread loss of life, to prevent overwhelming our hospitals, and to direct federal relief funds to keep our state, our businesses, and our families from experiencing catastrophic failure, in the short term.

But unfortunately, this coronavirus is not programmed to be a short term phenomenon. It is spreading, not just from cell to cell, but from house to house across our whole country. By the time you read this, the number of deaths nationally will be nearly 100,000, and it's likely someone you know will have contracted the disease. I have been keeping close tabs on the advance of the virus in Merrimack County, Franklin, and Andover, and the virus is here and beginning to spread with increasing speed. It would be foolish in the extreme to blithely travel out and about, without taking adequate precautions. That is why I have signed a letter with fellow Legislators of both the House and Senate, urging the Governor to enact a mandatory order for people to wear protective face masks in public.

It has been shown that without social distancing and protective masks, the probability of catching COVID-19 from encountering an infected person is very likely - about 75%. However, if both people are wearing masks, the probability drops below 1%. Those are good odds. Please always wear a mask.

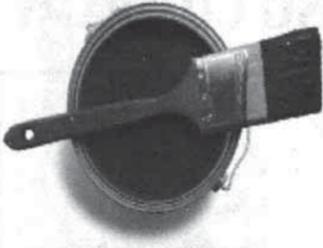
What we have been accomplishing by staying at home has had an important effect and has kept New Hampshire hospitals from becoming overwhelmed in the first months of the pandemic. But the tra-

jectory of the disease continues to be upward. In March, the number of cases in our local area was zero, but we could observe the number of cases explode in the major metropolitan areas of Boston and New York, doubling every three days. In the week we began social distancing in New Hampshire, the virus continued to spread, but it now took seven days to double the number of cases. As the sixth week went by, the time to double had increased to fifteen days. At eight weeks out from the state of emergency declaration, cases are doubling every seventeen days. It is incorrect to describe the rate of infections as "slowing down"; it is still accelerating, but not as strongly as it accelerates without social distancing and staying at home.

I know everyone misses their "old normal" life and is impatient to get back to work or play as they once did. The White House and the Center for Disease Control both recommend that stay at home restrictions remain in place until the disease "has a downward trajectory for fourteen days". At this time, the trajectory of the disease remains strongly upward. The number of cases continues to double roughly every two and a half weeks because infected people who don't yet feel sick are spreading the virus. These people are tools of the disease, acting as "invisible infectors". In theory, if every single person in the world could go four weeks without exposing another person, the virus would become extinct. Sadly, we have not yet all agreed to cooperate this way, even though the lives of our friends and families, as well as our jobs and our livelihoods depend on it.

Someone you know might already be infected today. It is not okay to ignore social distancing. It is not okay to go out in public without a face covering to protect the people around you. The disorderly clamor to "reopen the economy" while spreading the disease further is irresponsible and wrong-headed. What amount of money is more important than the lives of the other people around you? Is it your "right" to endanger the lives of people around you, just as surely as if you were driving drunk? Instead, please identify yourself as a responsible person by wearing a mask in public, and be courteous and kind in helping others remember their masks and to maintain a safe distance. If restrictions are lifted now while the disease is still increasing, the effect on

See Wells on page 10



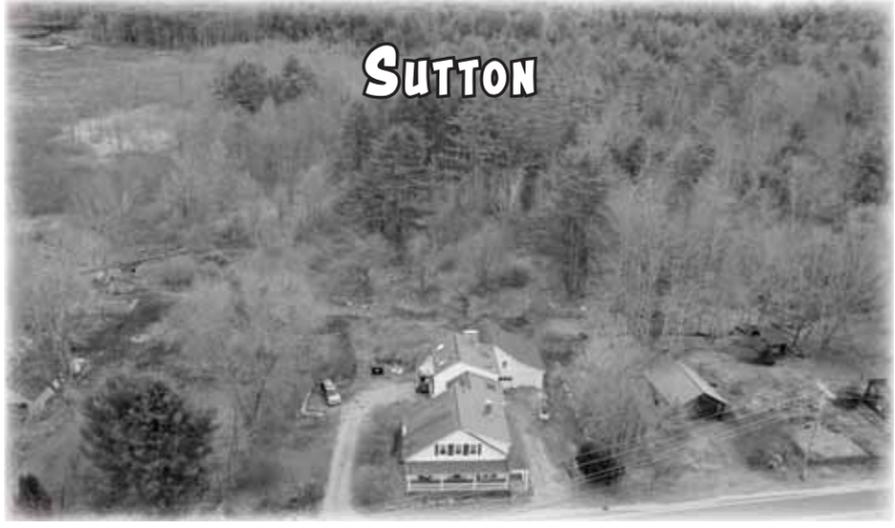


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