August 28, 2020

Dear Cecil County Citizens,

This message completes the 25th week of the creation of the Cecil County COVID-19 taskforce I created in March of this year. Valuable new and updated information is available regularly at https://www.ccgov.org/services/coronavirus. It is hard to believe that some may be getting use to this pandemic and might be inclined to let one’s guard down. PLEASE DO NOT! I urge you to continue to be careful and mind the protocols:

- **Wear a mask when outside of your home!**
- **Avoid crowds and practice social distancing protocols!**
- **Practice proven hygiene behaviors like washing hands, not touching your face and sneezing into your elbow!**

Each year, the fall season commences a new experience for our young citizens and many older adults who return to school, college or pursue less direct, enriching opportunities provided by the public library. To say this fall, 2020, is a bit different, is one of the most significant understatements of my lifetime. The coronavirus pandemic and associated protocols, official directives and government mandates at the federal, state and local levels have established new parameters.

The leadership of the Cecil County Public Schools, Cecil County Public Library and Cecil College have all stepped up their game to ensure that all participants have access to the best learning opportunities given the bizarre circumstances. A first reaction may be to criticize their efforts as a result of the impact the changes have on our own lives. I would suggest that while constructive critique is always warranted and welcome, our first reaction ought to be to support and understand the challenges each of our public education institutions is addressing.

For students attending the Cecil County Public Schools I direct you to a new, updated website, http://www.ccps.org. A student, parent or interested citizen can find all of the information sought by clicking on the appropriate heading. Dr. Lawson, Superintendent of schools, wants all to know that “Cecil County Public Schools is fully aware that the best place for our youth to be is in schools with excellent teachers and staff. Subsequently, our goal is to safely return our students and staff to our schools as soon as possible.”

Cecil College delivered online instruction this past summer and is well prepared to continue excellent, interactive instruction during the fall semester. In addition financial aid opportunities, career guidance and social support sessions associated with the realities of living in a pandemic are readily available.

www.ccgov.org
Dr. Bolt, President of Cecil College shares - “Knowing that during this time of change students chose Cecil College as their educational home for academic success is a great honor. I urge everyone to take advantage of the wealth of online resources (https://www.cecil.edu) available, including our writing center, technology resource center, math lab, library services and testing center. On-line tutoring is also available in many disciplines. Students who need assistance can reach out to a faculty member or advisor who is always available to point them in the right direction. We remain Cecil United!”

Lastly, but not least, are the abundances of services offered by the Cecil County Public Library. Check out these services at https://www.cecil.ebranch.info. I have said previously that our public library serves as the grand equalizer to ensure that all citizens, regardless of means or situation, have total access. With varied hours of operation, extended and free Wi-Fi availability, contactless pick-up and printing services and, coming soon, a Homework Help Portal for students, the Cecil County Public Library continues to provide countless resources that address needs for all of us. “With so many unknowns, it is more important than ever for the community to know they can count on us.” added Morgan Miller, CCPL Director.

According to the reopening plan posted on the CCPL website, public access to library facilities under a reduced capacity parameter is proposed for Fall 2020.

The quest for new knowledge and problem-solving processing skills cannot be abandoned because of the coronavirus. We expect individuals and institutions to rise to the challenge and provide the best solutions possible. Our three Cecil County learning institutions, under most effective leadership, are doing just that. Please support the efforts of the educators, staff and administrators who are working hard to deliver learning and enriching opportunities in this most difficult time.

I remain committed to ensuring that Cecil County continues to Move Forward. I wish you the best of health.

Dr. Alan J. McCarthy
Cecil County Executive