

Letters to the Library



Describe yourself in a sentence or two, for example your age and occupation (or, if you do not have one, what you like to do). What is your household like?

63 year old woman, chronically-ill, disabled, 6th generation CT resident, left HOMELESS after Ancestral Family Home was stolen through "Inheritance Hijacking." I have "lived" in my 34 year old Toyota truck for 6 1/2 years.

What is your day to day routine like now? What has changed? What has not changed?

Trying to survive has become harder as there is no longer any place to shower (YMCA is closed/showers closed per Governor's Order.) There are no libraries open to go to escape the harsh elements, i.e, rain, snow, extreme heat, burning sun, brutal winds, etc.

What precautions have you taken against the virus? How have you prepared? Were there any difficulties (shortages, high prices etc.)?

Finding and affording my special medical diet foods has been very difficult - and I have had to sacrifice much in order to just survive.

What have been the biggest challenges for you during this time?

Staying clean without running water or access to shower facilities; staying alive and not dying of heatstroke without any shelter whatsoever; buying food; getting medical attention (it took 2 months to get a dentist to fix my broken/infected back tooth.) I still cannot find a primary care doctor to conduct telemedicine appointments.

How have you stayed busy?

Trying to survive is three full-time jobs while HOMELESS.

Have there been any positives to this situation?

The air got real clean for quite some time during lockdown. Being HOMELESS, I enjoyed the spring bloom (beautiful flowers, bushes, trees, etc.) - all by myself in complete quiet and peace.

What local Wallingford places/businesses do you miss most?

Stop and Shop deli chair - Starbuck's indoor air conditioning and comfortable chair - shopping at Goodwill.

How have you stayed social while social distancing?

I have not had a single person to talk to. No social interaction at all. Being HOMELESS - everyone used to treat me like a ghost - but during the pandemic, I am treated like "Typhoid Mary."

What is the first thing you are doing when things go back to normal?

There will be "no normal." This pandemic is not going away, and will only continue on forever - just like AIDS/HIV.

How did you celebrate the Holidays? Did you see family in person, digitally, or not at all?

What are holidays??? What are family??? What is a celebration??

How will you be celebrating Wallingford's 350th Jubilee? If you were here for the 325th Jubilee, do you have any memories you would like to share?

Probably sleep in my truck in Walmart parking lot - as usual. (6 1/2+ years now.)

What do you miss most about the Wallingford Public Library? What is the first thing you will be doing when you can come back into the building?

Sit in my favorite chair (which does not hurt my broken back), open the window for fresh air, and jump online to read the news. Then, a visit to the Collaboratory to sew.....

Photo:

