

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?

I am a lifelong Wallingford resident, residing on the East side of town with my husband and daughter. We love animals, traveling and swimming.

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

Now (Sept 10) things are "getting back to a new normal". More people doing things, and being out and around. But everything has changed. People where masks and now masks are becoming a "fashion" statement. Folks don't shake hands or hug or even elbow bump right now, but it is not seen as rude, but safe. I am amazed that people recognize others with 2/3s of their face covered but it happens! Schools are on a crazy schedule that took me several spreadsheets to figure out, but in the end it is working tremendously for my daughter. We HAVE TOILET PAPER!!! That was a scarcity in the beginning. People for the most part are cordial to each other unless it has to do with Race, politics, police funding and the upcoming Nov Presidential election - so having said that I will not mention anything more but ask that everyone pray that people are for the most part trying to do the best they can, with what they know and do (I didn't say everyone - but most)

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

We have had our 2020/21 flu shots as of yesterday. I buy sanitizer for our hands and everyone carries it with them and there is one in each car, etc. We have laundry sanitizer now as well. I was one of the first people to appear on the State of CT's Attorney Generals website for tipping them off to price gouging for face masks just 2 days before the state of emergency was declared whereby that becomes illegal and people can be prosecuted for it. I was buying a box of N95 masks (my sister and her family are first responders and I was trying to stock up for them). The price on Amazon was \$30 for 10 masks - pricey but we needed them. At the checkout the bill was over \$400!!!! Difference in the price was \$350 in SHIPPING and that was how they were getting around it tripping Amazon's price gouging detection. The state ended up pulling them down and using this as an example to warn others about it. article 3/19/2020 (we had not even fully locked down yet) <https://portal.ct.gov/AG/Press-Releases/2020-Press-Releases/Attorney-General-Tong-Seeks-Information-from-Amazon-Following-Price-Gouging-Complaint>

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

The toughest thing during this time was helping my family deal with the changes and at the same time help myself with those same worries and concerns. Do you go to school, do you stay home, go to work, stay home from work, when do you return to activities, do we get take out food, get together with friends? Family? Mental health and self isolation were a major concern for my family. I needed to make sure that everyone had an avenue to talk about being angry about the situation and to find constructive ways to deal with it. We then decided that we would take a "Sunday Drive" you guessed it, Every Sunday with our Dog to just get out of the house. We had 2 major trips and some college visits planned for the summer and those all got the kibosh, so we did some stay-cation days around the pool and almost my whole family had Corona - Birthdays.

How have you stayed busy?

My daughter attended online Drivers Ed and was able to get her Learner's permit while in lock down. I have lost 40+ pounds since March. We were able to do some yard clean up. Take our Sunday drives to see parts of the state we hadn't been to in a while. Netflix, Prime video and Disney+ helped pass the time at night. We've played a couple board games, some online. We have enjoyed more FAMILY DINNERS - which all but seemed like a thing of the past until the pandemic. I took amazing pictures of things in nature which I never would have seen without slowing down and literally smelling the roses!

Have there been any positives to this situation?

The return of Family dinner night and eating at home (and yes we still help out the local small businesses more recently) Getting to spend more time with my family. The ability to "Pay attention" to all the things that whiz by us each day. My sister and I are closer by talking more often and trying to support her when her husband was being deployed to set up COVID 19 Medical stations for the Federal Government Disaster Relief Efforts. We in turn began calling and following up on my Aunt and Uncle who are in their 80's and determined to get what they need themselves - until my sister put them on auto delivery for items they needed. So trying to take extra measures for those who you care about and those you don't even know - Wear a Mask, if not for you, then for someone who needs you to!"

What local Wallingford places/businesses do you miss most?

I was heartbroken to see Gigante's close (and now the building is demolished too) and to have lost a "family member" from Napoli's Pizza early on.

How have you stayed social while social distancing?

We have used facetime to keep in touch with family, for tele-visits with Drs, Lots of text messages and a few emails. When parameters allowed for small outdoor gatherings we had maybe 7 people (5 of whom were family) OUTSIDE at our house when the limits were 25+ outside

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

I can't plan for when things go back to normal because I think as of today 9/8/2020 we are as normal as it will be for quite some time. If that day comes - Travel will be our #1 priority again. This is a gorgeous country and we would look to take a 3rd trip 'round it again someday.

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

We had one family gatherings a couple times, birthdays really. The holidays were just for the 3 of us to spend together. But no Sweet 16th party which we were planning on doing over the summer - but life goes on!

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?

We have no idea -we'll have to wait for the official events schedule and then see what we are comfortable with attending.

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?

We miss all the great displays over the years, pictures, quilts, kids contests, the smell of a NEW book.

Photos:



