



# BOROUGH OF WOODCLIFF LAKE

188 PASCACK ROAD, WOODCLIFF LAKE, NEW JERSEY 07677

---

To our amazing WCL residents who signed up to volunteer. There are over 100 of you so far!!

It makes me so proud to be part of a community working at helping one another! I'm sure there are more I am not aware of but would love to share a few. From the onset of this shut-in period, our Senior Association set up a call chain to check in on each other, residents have been making masks for front line workers, \$ has been collected and meals have been provided to hospital workers, phone chargers are being collected so isolated patients have an opportunity to call loved ones, and friends are sharing, and sometimes making, funny videos to lift spirits.

At this point we have over 60 residents who have tested positive. Unless we know them personally, we don't know exactly who they are, or at what stage of the illness they are currently in.

What I do know, is that I want to do what I can to help our community heal, and where possible, come out of this stronger. A few weeks ago, we put out a notice that we wished to form a COVID. Volunteer group. At that same time, we sent notice, through our Senior Association, that we had volunteers willing to assist them. To this point, none (in the association) have asked for help.

In the meantime, I became aware of a charitable organization (501c3) which is matching volunteers with Seniors in the area to help them with shopping. Before sharing, I wanted to experience it myself.

I set up my account with "Umbrella" [www.askumbrella.com](http://www.askumbrella.com) and downloaded the app. I needed to verify myself by submitting a photo of my ID (driver's license), took a photo of myself to submit, and also provided Umbrella with my bank information so I can be paid back for money spent on groceries in order to avoid person to person contact.

Once joined, I was able to see open jobs. I signed up for 2. One Hillsdale couple had been waiting 6 days for service and they had a large order. One Woodcliff resident just signed on, and only had a few needed items. Once I accepted the jobs, I contacted them to establish a time for shopping/delivery and to discuss just how we would handle that. They were lovely and extremely thankful. They are all in the "high risk" category since they are elderly, but the couple consisted of a frail 81 yr old male whose wife is working with 1/2 a lung due to a cancer scare a few years back. The single gentleman is confined to a wheelchair.

Those of us who shop at local stores, know it's not easy. You may have also experienced trying to place online orders with no luck. I can't imagine how any of this feels for our older community which often has trouble with technology on the best of days. I also know some younger and capable adults are concerned to shop for someone else in fear of causing illness to anyone. My take is that I want to do whatever I can to limit exposure for anyone who may be compromised shopping for him/herself. Personally, I made sure to take all precautions: I wiped down my cart, I wore gloves and a mask in the store. While there, I made sure not to touch my face. I packed the bags myself, loaded them in the car, then dropped them outside of their homes. My shopping avoided them from being in the same personal space as the (up to 50) shoppers in the store, as well as the number who were there before I arrived. I feel I limited their exposure as best I could.

They were extremely thankful, and I will likely (definitely the gentleman in Woodcliff Lake) shop for them again.

Before making our Senior population aware of this service, I wanted to make you, our Woodcliff Lake volunteers, aware so any willing and interested people could sign up to provide this valuable service. I had been trying to do this in town on our own, but the exchange of money caused complications. The Umbrella organization solves this issue.

I hope you and your families are well, and I look forward to finding a way to safely be a more connected community when we come out of this.

Stay safe,

Councilwoman Nancy Gross  
(201) 906-9117