



TOWN OF STRATFORD
MAYOR LAURA HOYDICK

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STRATFORD PUBLIC SAFETY PARADES BRING SMILES TO THE STREETS

STRATFORD – To help raise the spirits of townspeople of all ages during the Stay Home – Stay Safe order, Stratford Fire, Stratford Police and EMS departments have teamed up to form joint vehicle parades at various times around town. The parades, with lights shining, sirens sounding and hands waving, are drawing residents out of their homes cheering and showing that the community is still all connected.

“With everyone on edge and confined to their homes during this pandemic, the Stratford Fire, Police and EMS Departments found that we can bring a smile and some happiness to those that are feeling the need,” said **Fire Chief Brian Lampart**. “This is simply a community enrichment activity that provides the Firefighters, Police Officers and EMS with some stress-free activities and shows our neighbors that we care.”

Said **Police Chief Joseph McNeil**, “The Police Department, Fire Department and EMS are invested in our community through good times and bad. Our mission is to alleviate some frustration and bring some joy to our residents.”

Because of how busy EMS has been responding to virus-related calls they have been unable to join all of the parades. Said **EMS Director Michael Loiz**, “Whenever we can participate, we do, and when we’re not there we’re with them in spirit.”

“The isolation felt by our residents during this time can be difficult,” said **Mayor Laura R. Hoydick**. “These pop-up parades are a great way to show children and families that we may be separated, but we are in this together. They are also a great opportunity for our great public safety personnel to put smiles on faces, including their own. I thank all of them for what they are doing on the frontlines, and working to raise spirits all around town.”

The idea for pop-up parades stemmed from one resident who made a request for a visit around a child’s birthday and then posted the parading public safety men and women on social media. This led to more requests, according to Erin McLaughlin, who heads up community outreach for Stratford Police. “We want to see everybody,” she said, explaining that a tentative schedule of neighborhood parades is being developed for the next few weeks, and they hope to visit all areas of town over time.

For more information, visit Facebook/Stratford PAL. #bettertogether #townofstratford

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