
High School

Everyone has been affected by Coronavirus in different ways, and the fight is long from over. People in minority groups including Asians, African Americans, and low-income citizens have been hit especially hard; this encompasses issues regarding racial and economic inequality. The financial blow to the country we have seen is one that will not be easily forgotten by our current and coming generations. People have learned to adapt to this new way of life, but everyone still needs to do their part to overcome this virus.

Safety measures should be enforced by businesses, schools, and all individuals of the community. Simple things like wearing a mask can be done by anyone, but most importantly, people need to speak up when they see someone not using safe practices like ignoring social distancing rules. Social pressures make it hard for most people to confront peers or strangers about how to wear a mask, but looking out for the community should take priority over personal comforts. Safe behaviors and habits should be promoted, for example, advising a friend not to go to a party; this will be helping to look out for them while also serving as a reminder that we are still in a pandemic. Healthy habits like regularly washing your hands, using hand sanitizer, and standing six feet apart are the little things we all need to do in order to stop the Covid-19 spread.

It is essential to remind people that in this time of isolation and grief, the power is still in their hands. The government can create vaccines, and each state can make as many safety guidelines as they see fit, but only each individual person can make the decision to live safe and make a difference.

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When developing our community, we may face challenge. Safety is a prime focus because we cannot grow in our community without the assurance of it. Some ideas on how we can keep individuals safe are based on these main issues: traffic safety, crime prevention, fire safety, internet safety, and COVID-19.

We use cars for much of our transportation. Therefore, our traffic safety includes how we can protect those in cars as well as those who walk by cars. We can protect those in cars by improving our roadway designs. This includes improving turning lanes and installing more median barriers. We can protect our pedestrians outside cars by implementing more refuge areas in crosswalks and redesigning roads with better walkways.

Crime is unfortunately inevitable in societies. We can improve our crime prevention by enforcing hot-spot policing and creating rehabilitation programs with risk-focused treatments. Hot-spot policing reduce crime rate without displacing it to other areas. Rehabilitation programs with risk-focused treatments allow convicted offenders to seek support they need for change.

We can improve fire safety by carrying out fire risk assessments, installing more fire detection alarms, and maintaining fire safety equipment. Fires start fast, so individuals must be aware of it, know what to do, and have the right equipment to protect themselves.

Technology is a growing industry; therefore, we need to improve our internet safety. We can do this by enabling stronger authentication and using more privacy settings. Stronger authentication verifies that you have authorization to your online account. Privacy settings make it harder for unwanted individuals to gain access to your accounts.

COVID-19 has been an increasing issue that we need to prioritize. Wearing our face masks, gathering outdoors in smaller groups, and not touching your face before washing your hands are all effective ways to keep individuals safe.

Today we see ourselves in a predicament like none other in the past decades. The world comes to a screeching halt, schools close and our health is of the utmost importance. The spread of COVID-19 has been violent, within Palm Beach County, we have almost 540 new cases daily putting Palm Beach County as the third most infectious county in Florida. We as a community must take action for the protection of ourselves and others. There are a variety of things that we can do even as vaccines roll out including closely monitoring the activity level within schools, and upholding a stronger mask policy.

Speaking to many students around Florida about the COVID-19 situation at their school, I've seen a direct correlation between the level of school activities and the number of COVID-19 cases at the schools. Looking at Wellington, we see schools such as Palm Beach Central with minimal COVID-19 cases as they have no afterschool activities on campus, then we look at schools such as Hagerty High School in Seminole County with ~40 confirmed cases. Evidently, they have daily at-school activities like a normal year. Taking action on this correlation could have a severe impact on the spread of COVID-19, thus ensuring the safety of us students going to school.

The second thing we could do is to encourage everyone to wear masks properly. On the rare occasion that I go out, I see people blatantly not wearing a mask or wearing it leaving either their nose or mouth exposed. I feel that we as a community can do better to encourage people to wear masks properly because the problem at hand is concerning people's lives. Ensuring that we can do this simple task properly can go a long way in protecting ourselves and those around us.

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How to reduce crime within our community? I'm sure that's a question all city councils ask themselves on a daily basis. This especially is an important discussion when it comes to protecting/nurturing the younger generations within our town. According to Urban Institute, "younger adults ages 18-24 faced a higher risk of violent crime arrests or victimization than any other age group". I believe the answer to the question regarding crime prevention is in raising the younger generations/teenagers with positive enforcement of community involvement. This idea will give those involved a sense of what is appropriate versus not within a community. Further helping my point of targeting younger age groups was the most recent United States census. 26% of the population (more than any other age group listed) is older than 5 but younger than 19 in Wellington Florida.

When I say community involvement, I am referring to things such as intramural sports teams, teen movie nights, karaoke nights, motivational gatherings for people in their early 20s, and any other activities that will engage the towns younger generations (of course all following Covid 19 protocols as of right now). The activities would also be divided by age groups. To further this agenda, I believe for each activity there should be people known as a "group leaders". These people would be successful and trusted adults from within our community who volunteer their time to serve as role models for the younger populations within our town.

This will reduce crime by ensuring that the age groups that are said to be causing the most crime are occupying their time with other more positive actions. Aside from keeping busy with community involvement they will make friends and mentors who will be there to steer them back if they ever do seem to be going down a darker path.

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<http://webarchive.urban.org/publications/900403.html>

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/wellingtonvillageflorida>

The Village of Wellington has some great things put into place to combat covid, but with the rising number of cases here I think that more needs to be done. Our county alone has 112,964 current cases and after looking at a study done by FAU you can see that the majority of people catching the virus fall between the ages of 24- 54.

To help keep everyone safe I think that the Village of Wellington should cater more towards that specific age group when talking about what to do to reduce the spread of the virus. For example, people of that age are more likely to read the newspaper or spend some time scrolling through facebook. Wellington could publish some tips on what to do if you have covid and what you can do to prevent covid because there is a greater chance they will look at them on those platforms.

To protect everyone, Wellington can make sure that mask mandates are being enforced everywhere you go and make sure that everyone can get a mask. They could do something similar to what Palm Beach County did where they mailed masks to all of their residents. This ensures that everyone has at least one mask and then you can leave it up to the individual businesses to make sure that everyone has a mask when entering the premises.

They can also make covid tests easier to get. At most places they limit the tests to only certain people. Wellington could do something like add additional testing sites that are open to everyone.

With these ideas being put into place by the Village of Wellington, The community could be a safer place.

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With the COVID-19 pandemic, the world is full of uncertainty. The Village of Wellington could impose crime prevention measures like spreading general education regarding crime prevention, keeping our children busy and off the streets, and constructing an environment change in order to make our community safer with certainty.

It would be prudent to increase awareness of the scenarios that could prompt a criminal to engage in a crime. Like in Wilson, North Carolina, general education that entails informing residents to keep their home always looking occupied, using deadbolt locks, and other useful tips drives down crime rates.¹ Wilson has a high crime rate (higher than in 82.8% of cities), but found this implementation to be one of several factors that decreased crime by 12% compared to 2018.²

We are fortunate to have programs like the Boys and Girls Club that keep children occupied, interacting with one another, and forming bonds. The creation of more such programs that are free or low-cost to the public would allow for more friendships to be made in a supervised and safe environment. Based on studies published by the U.S. Department of Justice, this approach drives down crime in a cost-effective and socially optimal manner.³

Marginalized neighborhoods suffer from drastically higher crime rates. There is research suggesting that effective use of buildings and public spaces in these neighborhoods could lead to a reduction in crime and improve the residents' quality of life.⁴

While crime is an extremely complex issue, these are three measures that could begin to tackle its complexities and decrease its prevalence in our community, and thus make our home safer.

¹ "Wilson, NC," Ways to Prevent Crime | Wilson, NC, accessed February 11, 2021, <https://www.wilsonnc.org/residents/city-services/all-departments/police/ways-to-prevent-crime>.

² City-Data, "Crime Rate in Wilson, North Carolina (NC)," Crime in Wilson, North Carolina (NC): murders, rapes, robberies, assaults, burglaries, thefts, auto thefts, arson, law enforcement employees, police officers, crime map, accessed February 11, 2021, <https://www.city-data.com/crime/crime-Wilson-North-Carolina.html>.

³ Amy J.A. Arbretton and Wendy S. McClanahan, "Targeted Outreach: Boys and Girls Clubs of America's Approach to Gang Prevention and Intervention," Targeted Outreach: Boys and Girls Clubs of America's Approach to Gang Prevention and Intervention | Office of Justice Programs (U.S. Department of Justice, March 2002), <https://www.ojp.gov/library/abstracts/targeted-outreach-boys-and-girls-clubs-americas-approach-gang-prevention-and>.

⁴ Paul R.A. Stanley, "Crime Prevention through Environmental Design," Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (Solicitor General of Canada, Research Division, 1977), <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/Digitization/43558NCJRS.pdf>.

⁵ National Crime Prevention Council, "Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Training Program," Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Training Program, accessed February 11, 2021, <https://www.npcpc.org/resources/home-neighborhood-safety/crime-prevention-through-environmental-design-training-program/>.

Financial fraud is the fastest growing form of elder abuse in the United States (Piekalkiewicz, 2019). As the elderly plug into the digital world to get the news, talk to loved ones, and engage with the community, scammers are finding new and unique ways to exploit these residents. Making up 8 percent of the Village of Wellington's population in 2000, the number of residents over the age of 65 has climbed to 16 percent in the last two decades ("U.S. Census Bureau," 2019). Often disguised as trusted digital persons or services, criminals target seniors because they know that they often have large savings and are not likely to report the incident, making the job low risk. Victims of financial fraud not only suffer from monetary consequences but also emotional ones, dealing with embarrassment and fearing loss of financial independence ("Elder Fraud," 2020).

To protect our vulnerable elderly population, the Village of Wellington needs to create awareness, not only to seniors but to all residents. Scammers will only learn to adapt and improve, so it is essential that the community can defend our seniors. Internet safety education is vital and can be achieved through virtual and physical mail every month, teaching residents how to spot and report scams. Social media campaigns on platforms such as Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook are also effective tools that can reach a wide range of community members. Posting about abuse hotlines and services can help remind and educate residents on how to seek help, as finding reliable support can sometimes be confusing and daunting. In the age of information, it is especially important to protect our information and to teach others to never give out their name, address, passwords, or social security to undisclosed organizations. A safe community protects all its members, including seniors.

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“Stay alive. Think and drive.”

Undoubtedly, catchy quotes and select slogans are often utilized to emphasize the importance of traffic safety. This is extremely necessary: “Approximately 1.35 million people die in road crashes each year, on average 3,700 people lose their lives every day on the roads.”

It is important to consider the implications that this statistic has on ALL Wellington residents. Besides eye-catching slogans, there have been improvements in traffic safety efforts, meaning “[drunk driving] deaths have fallen by a third in the last three decades,” and a “\$24,824,530 fund relocation project to local and tribal traffic safety programs as of 2019,” has assisted with this and related traffic safety measures. However, work can still be done in the Village of Wellington to keep Wellington safe in regards to traffic safety.

Surely, education in the Wellington community is at the utmost importance to promote traffic safety. Education is incredibly important to instill traffic safety ideals into young minds. It is evidenced that programs like “Safe Kids Florida” have reached “143,092 children and 192,675 parents” in the state. Therefore, implementing a program like this in Wellington schools would make a significant difference in the lives of youth 0-19 as they learn more about traffic safety, road behaviors, and the dangers of driving under the influence to carry with them in the future.

Education efforts have the potential to inspire action in others, myself included. Nationwide organizations such as The National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration and National Transportation Safety Board have all created instilled the importance of traffic safety education in every state. By participating in discussions curated by Wellington, educational programs, driving safety lessons for new drivers, and community outreach programs designed to connect community members, the pressing issue of traffic safety surely can surely be mitigated in Wellington.

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The Village of Wellington can educate parents on internet safety for their children. Since the Covid-19 pandemic became a central issue leading to quarantine, students of all ages have been attending school remotely. Consequently, they have been using the computer like never before and internet safety is more important than ever. Although adult supervision has always been emphasized, parents are stressed out for various reasons, including job loss and having to work from home themselves. However, parents and guardians need to be aware that predators are also at home and probably have more time on their hands, therefore children need close supervision and protection.

Parents need to communicate openly and honestly with children about their use of the internet while still allowing them to have social contact with family and friends.¹ Children need to know that it's very important that an adult is aware of who they are communicating with on the internet and that there can be no secrets or inappropriate internet contact with anyone, even if the person is not a stranger.² They should be comfortable reporting to an adult if they experience any such contact, including cyberbullying or any form of threat. Parents should also carve out time at the computer with their children so they can observe their interactions. This will keep parents in tune with what is going on first-hand. Parental controls should also be used to keep children safe. Also, while children are at home using the internet more than ever, they should dress appropriately and be mindful of when their computer is active. Internet safety is of utmost importance to protect children from harm.

¹ How to Keep Your Child Safe Online While Stuck at Home During the COVID-19. [unicef.org](https://www.unicef.org)

² Things You Can Do to Ensure Your Children are Safe Online During Quarantine.

[Birminghamparent.com](https://www.birminghamparent.com)

Covid-19 has completely changed every aspect of everyone's lives, all around the world. Now topping almost 110M cases worldwide, the virus has left none behind and taken all. Although the spreading of coronavirus is a top echelon issue the CDC and world nations are focusing on to stop the spread, we are also facing a threat of an unprecedented increment of the virus: new variants through mutation. When viruses have multiple hosts garnering their strength (humans), they are able to mutate and bind together to make stronger variants of the virus, which can be more deadlier and dangerous than the original Covid-19 virus. The variants of an original virus are usually more easier to spread, easier to harm humans, and less effective to vaccines, so it's extremely significant to stop the spread before the mutations become exacerbated.

What I, and others, can do to help my community of Wellington and beyond, safe from the spread of coronavirus is to first, wear a protective, face-covering mask. ¹The CDC proclaims that wearing a mask is one of the most effective ways to protect yourself and others from getting the virus, as well as social distancing and washing your hands periodically. Studies have shown from scientists that masks are a simple barricade to water droplets that can transfer through the air when interacting with other people. When you're not wearing your mask, you are more vulnerable to these molecules that can come from a person who is knowingly, or unknowingly carrying the virus. By staying a minimum of six feet apart from people, washing your hands and wearing your mask, we can stop the spread.²

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/need-to-know.html>

As a student learning the rules of the road, I have always been afraid of the infamous car crash. In my community, traffic safety is an issue that is omnipresent, and something that should be provided more attention towards resolving. Even though steps have been taken to resolve the problem in the past, such as creating safer roads to drive on, as well as the road work project done on the intersection between Southern Boulevard and Forest Hill Boulevard. Regardless of this work however, there still is more work to be done.

In order to see the magnitude of the traffic safety issues, we should view the number of car accidents in recent years. In 2018, Datney Law Firm issued a report of traffic accidents in Palm Beach County. In that year, there were over 25,000 accidents, and 166 total fatalities from car accidents — a major escalation from only 7 fatalities the year before. Some of the intersections most prevalent with accidents involve Forest Hill Boulevard and State Road 7, as well as Forest Hill Boulevard and 441. In addition, the most prevalent type of collision involves a rear-end collision. If we want to improve the traffic safety in Wellington, we should start by improving the safety near these intersections.

Based on the data provided, we can tell that some of the most work has to be done along Forest Hill, for three of the most notable traffic safety problems have risen on the road. One strong method to solve this problem would be to slow down the road, which would provide drivers more time and opportunity to drive safely. This can either be done by adding speed bumps or lowering the speed limit — and speed limitation efforts are already underway. Let's hope that these changes make driving safer.

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Every community can be safer. In the Village of Wellington, a factor that could be addressed is traffic safety. The Village of Wellington can have an overview of where most traffic accidents occurred or where the most speeding tickets were issued; identifying the highest risk areas will be the first step in making positive changes. These high-risk areas can be a result of the signage in areas being blocked or not visible from trees, bushes, or anything else in the way of them. Rumble strips in high-speed areas can help to reduce the number of speeding tickets and accidents caused by fast cars. Another option is to improve the visibility of crosswalks to ensure that pedestrians can be easily seen by oncoming traffic. One less expensive way is zebra stripes. These are easily sprayed on the road and can be re-colored over and over again; this solution is not only cost-effective but can be done in a timely fashion for speedy results. The Village of Wellington can also take into consideration bicycle lanes on key streets if there are any. These bike lanes can be an accident waiting to happen by putting a small biker into the road with large and fast-moving cars around them. To put this all together, a committee can be formed to overview funding for road safety and traffic patterns to create safer roads and to follow through with the above steps and review improvements.

Source: <https://www.safewise.com/blog/8-simple-ways-make-neighborhood-safer-place/>

I believe that the Village of Wellington lacks certain safety measures that should be taken due to COVID-19. I think that there should be greater enforcement from workers to make sure that everyone is doing all they can to prevent COVID from spreading and the cases increasing. In my personal experience, I have been in multiple stores where even though there is a sign that says "Must wear a mask to enter," some people choose not to wear them and workers don't say anything. It has made me feel uncomfortable, and doubtful in the policies that were enacted to prevent the spread of this virus. It feels as though people have relaxed and chilled back on the rules, and policies. I believe that the Village of Wellington should host a meeting to discuss what they can do, and possibly what complaints people have. I have also noticed that at High School games and events, not everyone is wearing their masks, even when they are around big crowds. I think what we can do as a community is to further encourage and mandate the use of masks. I also believe that students my age should not be allowed to be in big groups outside of school. I understand that it can be hard to reach teenagers and show them how important it is to wear a mask and social distance, but I believe re enforcing this and raising awareness to this online and through social media could help encourage others to stop hanging in big groups. However, while I might not be able to stop other people, I can always remember to wear a mask when I go out, bring hand sanitizer, and stay at least 6 feet away from others.

Property crime is the most common form of crime in Wellington, Florida.(Neighborhood Scout). And in the US, 68% of property crimes take the form of larceny, otherwise known as petty theft (FBI). So it's safe to say that the majority of property crimes in Wellington are petty theft crimes. And while Wellington has been rated as a relatively safer municipality than most in Florida (Neighborhood Scout), the question on how to reduce these crimes in a way that benefits offenders and the affected still stands.

The solution may lie with a restorative justice approach such as one used in Los Angeles, California. In 2014, Los Angeles instituted the Neighborhood Justice Program where “...first-time offenders who commit a nonviolent, non-weapons-related and non-drug-related misdemeanor...” are allowed to reintegrate back into the community (Wagman). Under the program, offenders, known as “participants” to reduce stigma, would go before a community panel that would discuss the crime as well as devise “obligations” that they would need to complete (Wagman). If these obligations were met, any record of the offense would be erased and local courts would have one less case to process (Wagman). Author Diana Wagman, a trained community panelist of the program, noted that the “...beauty of the process is that it’s personal...The participants are forced to confront the ramifications of their actions.” The obligations imposed on participants usually involved community service as well as letters/essays of apology to the affected (Wagman).

The results of such a program show a positive effect as well. Wagman reported in a span of two years that 766 participants completed their obligations and contributed 7,334 hours of community service, with a recidivism rate of only 3%. A similar program in Wellington could see similar results, where offenders aren’t bound by a permanent record and the community as a whole learns to heal.

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In our community, there are many new issues that have risen and a variety of ways in which we can try to stay safe during these issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic but the issue which I think needs to be addressed more seriously is sexual assault. Sexual assault is defined as, according to rainn.org, as “attempted rape, fondling or unwanted sexual touching, forcing a victim to perform sexual acts, or penetration of the victim’s body. As the younger children in our community grow and start having relationships, I believe it is extremely important to make them aware that they can stand up for themselves and say no when they do not want to do something with their partner and if they do become a victim of sexual assault, that it is imperative they come forward about it. 66% of sexual assault victims are between the ages of 12-17, which is when children are developing and beginning to comitt to romantic relationships.

I believe we, as a community, should try to encourage the teaching of kids that they have the power to say no and that consent is key. Both boys and girls are affected by the problem at hand and even one encounter of such a traumatic event can leave severe mental physical health issues. Teaching kids these serious issues at a young age would also help them realize early what is right and wrong in a relationship so that they are away for the future.

I want to know my little sister is safe and that she knows she cannot be forced into doing anything she does not want to do. Most importantly, I want a safer community for our newer generations.

Source:

<https://www.rainn.org/statistics/children-and-teens>

The Coronavirus outbreak has greatly impacted everyone in the world throughout the course of the past year. Wellington, Florida is no exception to those who have endured the virus and the consequences that have come with it. The Village of Wellington has done a great job releasing information to the public about the virus. Their website provides many online sources that show the specifics many people may find necessary. From showing restaurants with take-out options all the way to COVID-19 testing site contacts, the Village of Wellington is making it easier for citizens to manage these difficult times.

Other than the basics of wearing masks and frequent hand-washing, more can be done to help end the spreading of the virus throughout Wellington. Although the rate of new Coronavirus cases in Florida is decreasing, we still have one of the highest numbers of cases in the United States. Some small things could be done by the Village of Wellington that could serve a big purpose. Sanitizing stations for the public could be set up around Wellington in places where there are multiple people in contact with a single surface, like in parks/playgrounds, next to ATMs, or at bus stops. As well, the Village of Wellington could send flyers to houses reminding people to socially distance, wear masks, and wash their hands, along with other preventative measures. Sending out small 'care packages' containing hand sanitizer, gloves, and masks could also be helpful in this situation. Rules for events or places where many people gather at once could also be implemented more strictly by enforcing fines. Everyone must do their part for this to get better, but the Village of Wellington could definitely help the process with a few small things.

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- ❑ <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

My daily drive to flag football practice leads me to pass many parks in the Village of Wellington. These speedy drive-bys always leave me feeling a bit uneasy, as I watch many people socializing without a mask in sight. I have noticed this trend specifically at the dog park near Aero Club and especially at Tiger Shark Park, where it seems that the spread of Covid-19 just magically stops as our citizens walk through the gates.

As Florida does not have a universal mask mandate, it is barely enforced, yet Palm Beach County has one in effect, and this should supersede the mask policy on the state level. The CDC states that the best policy is the “community use of masks, specifically non-valved multi-layer cloth masks, to prevent transmission of SARS-CoV-2.” Even though these parks are outdoors, upon my own personal encounters, the 6 foot social distancing rules are not being followed in the slightest. The best way to prevent an outbreak is universal mask wearing, as enforcing social distancing is much more challenging. The people at these parks are the same children and families who frequent our school system, putting teachers and staff at risk.

Not only are these parks full of maskless individuals, they are also a dangerous breeding ground of plastic slides and handrails. Children are all touching the same rock-walls and swings one after another, and with the lack of masks to prevent hands going in mouths, parks could be the perfect place for an outbreak to occur.

Whether this change comes about by mask-monitors being placed around parks, contact tracing being done upon entry, or sporadic sanitizing of high-contact surfaces, I believe any change can help to keep our community safer.

“Science Brief: Community Use of Cloth Masks to Control the Spread of SARS-CoV-2.”
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/masking-science-sars-cov2.html.

In this essay I will be talking about how the Village of Wellington can do a better job on internet safety. It is apparent that in our world today, we all need to use technology. Some people are very capable of using technology while others are lacking knowledge. This has become a very important issue especially right now because of this pandemic and now everyone needs to use their technological devices for work purposes, study purposes, and other activities. Being knowledgeable about technology is now no longer an option for people due to the circumstances that we are dealing with right now. It is now almost like a mandate that everyone understands how to use their technology and how they can be safe while doing so. Internet safety must become the main priority as of right now. I think what the Village of Wellington can do is have a variety of virtual meetings where it teaches people how they can protect themselves on the internet. We can review topics such as not talking to strangers on the internet, not sharing sensitive or personal information, and other important information. This will help people become more knowledgeable about technology and they will be more safe as a result due to the lessons that were given in each of the meetings. In retrospect, I believe that internet safety needs to take main priority as of right now because of the circumstances that we are dealing with right now. Not many people know how to be safe online and I believe that the Village of Wellington should show people how they can protect themselves online.

While many precautions have been taken in decreasing the spread of Covid there are still other alternatives and measures needed to be taken. From my own experience I've seen restaurants only enforcing social distancing to certain extents. Due to the high influx at some restaurants they fail to have proper six feet between tables. In order to combat this, a suggestion we've heard from the CDC since the beginning of Covid is to keep restaurants closed until covid cases are steadily dwindling. Stricter Covid guidelines should not only be applied to restaurants but to all establishments and gatherings as well. Acknowledging the precautions taken at events such as the South Florida Fair and other events that are held we can still learn from those to keep the community safe. Big events do try and keep social distancing but humans make mistakes. Not many want to properly wear a mask or keep a six feet distance between themselves and others. Due to this, cancelling events that bring in a lot of traction should remain closed. Another suggestion is to have systems in place to help the homeless. They are one of the most affected by this pandemic due to not having proper access to sinks and other supplies such as masks. Putting funding towards them and having ways to supply them with hand sanitizer and masks would greatly help them keep themselves safe and those around them. Many of these suggestions could work when used together to decrease the number of Covid cases in Wellington and ensure the safety of the community.

The first thing the village of Wellington can do to make the community safer is to help with traffic safety. I am mainly speaking from the perspective of the equestrian side and someone who lives near it. There should be more protection for horses when crossing the road. Horses can get easily spooked especially when crossing a road they don't know very well. If a horse was able to be spooked it would lead to the potential death of the rider and damage to countless vehicles. What I would suppose is to have more time for horses to cross the road and to have dirt paths inserted on the intersections where horses are known to cross. It would also be helpful if there were more sidewalks in the city as I have noticed areas where it is inconvenient to get somewhere without walking on grass. More sidewalks would discourage inconvenience and jaywalking in the community.

Another area the Village of Wellington should focus on is the community service and job opportunities. The best way to prevent crime is to stop it before it even happens. Increased job opportunities would decrease crime and provide more employment allowing for more taxes which would allow the Village of Wellington to spend more money on keeping the community safe.

3/10/21

I believe the Village of Wellington can provide additional police and traffic supervision to keep our community safe. I am specifically referring to the construction that is taking place on Big Blue Trace between South Shore Boulevard and Wellington Trace.

I am a student at Wellington Community High School. I, as well as my friends, travel this road frequently in order to get to our destinations. To begin, the traffic in the morning is awful. This is a busy street and the mornings are a busy time of the day. As a result of the construction, the road is difficult to travel on as well as unsafe. There is no traffic supervision, and cars constantly are trying to exit their communities, which have caused me on more than one occasion to almost collide. I have witnessed a terrible collision. In addition, my friends have complained how dangerous it is to drive by that construction.

I have a good friend who is an avid runner and biker. She will no longer ride her bike or run on this road due to the construction and lack of safety measures. I feel the town should provide traffic safety to this area to ensure everyone's safety.

Transportation is an important asset to the structure of a community, it allows the transport of resources, people and technology. So it is in Wellington's best interests to provide not only effective but safe transportation. As a daily driver I find the blind spots on Wellington roadways an actual disruption on the effective transportation system. Whether it be on Greenview Shores or plaza squares there always tends to be an issue of blind spots for drivers. Sure depending on which type of vehicle you drive you may not experience the same issue. But for most Sedan/Coupe drivers taking a left on an intersection with a large truck waiting on the other side impairs the drivers ability to make a safe decision as a risk of collision has and will happen. Moving out from the issue of blind spots another area where we see this issue is in plazas. For example a 4-way stop was created in the Courtyard shops plaza because too many automobile collisions were occurring. One reason was that people weren't paying attention while arriving at the intersection and two, there are vehicle tall bush linings all around the area making a driver creep up almost in the middle of the intersection. Furthering on the blind spots of courtyard shops, leaving the main road in the plaza next to the line of small businesses bushes again impedes the driver to safely and effectively observe his or her surroundings. Almost all car crashes are due to driver error and sure, should blind spots be an issue that gets overcome with extra driver analysis? Yes, however unfortunately it only takes one driver to create an accident and another to not react. Overcoming blind spots in most eyes seems like a personal issue but to avoid more accidents, lowering speed limits won't be sufficient enough, rather creating better accessible visibility for drivers no matter the location would serve better in improving road safety in Wellington. Thank you.

With the Covid-19 vaccine becoming more widely distributed, it is important that we do not become negligent and careless to the danger of the virus. Additionally, as an increasing number of states begin to lessen their restrictions and mandates, Wellington should continue to stay strong in its fight against the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

Palm Beach County has the third highest number of cases in the state of Florida. At the time I am writing this (March 9) there are 123,500 total confirmed Covid-19 cases in Palm Beach County.^[1] Wellington makes up somewhere between 3.5% and 4.6% of these cases.^[2]

A way to further reduce the spread of Covid-19 is to require masks to be worn in all public locations. Unfortunately, the Village of Wellington does not have the power to enforce a mask mandate. The state of Florida does not require its residents to wear masks and Florida's local governments are not allowed to fine those who do not wear masks.^[3]

This does not mean nothing can be done to encourage people to wear masks. Every privately owned business can require its customers to wear facial coverings, and can refuse service to those who do not comply with the directive. If more local businesses were encouraged to institute facial covering requirements, I believe Wellington's Covid-19 positivity rate could be further reduced.

One way businesses can be encouraged to implement a mask requirement is by receiving an official letter from the Village of Wellington asking such a requirement be implemented. Of course, no legal action can be taken to force the business owner to do this, but if the Village took a record of all establishments that do and do not require masks and publicized it, it is more likely that customers would avoid defiant businesses.

¹ Florida Department of Health, Division of Disease Control and Health Protection

² Google News

³ AARP

The village of Wellington has done fairly well in my humble opinion in dealing with the threat of Covid and its rapid spread. Over the past year I have felt the risk of contracting it to be minimal in Wellington, and I applaud the efforts of those working hard to reduce the risk. With that being said, there is still a lot more that can be done. The different tactics employed by the village have been effective, but there is still the feeling that there needs to be a bit more. There have been countless times in which I or someone needed to utilize hand sanitizer, only for there to not be any left. Sure one can have their own personal bottle with them, but it is something that can be convenient if someone is in a hurry and needs to clean their hands quickly. I also find that when there are hand sanitizing areas, it helps to remind people to clean their hands more often, which can only help prevent virus' spread further. Moving on, I think there is also a way that everyone can help maintain its spread, and that's through simply reminding, and practicing safe behaviors inside and outside. Reminding those around me to wear or bring a mask, clean their hands and things they have touched, as well as making sure that I or they maintain social distancing. The key is to remind, because people will always try to cut corners to make things easier rather than better, and the problem is that most cannot differentiate between cutting corners and doing the right thing. If I am able to constantly remind myself and others that we all need to get through this together, then maybe we can all benefit.

Wellington is an ever growing community, and even though we have one of the safest communities in the state of Florida, there are still many things the Village of Wellington can do to improve. The best improvements start with the youth because they are the future of our community and without them there would be no city of Wellington. Our schools need more support, many students are struggling with online education, if more precautions are brought and more Covid protection programs would be brought, more students would go and get better education. Improving our streets will also be a great improvement to our community, the parks, roads, and lakes are a big part of the appeal of the city of Wellington. Now that more people are driving to work and more students are getting their driver license, there should be more lectures or presentations given to students to remind them of driving safety. Finally the last thing I would consider improving would be our Covid relief efforts. Now that there are vaccines, and more people are getting back on their feet, now is the time to act.

I am going to talk about things that I believe should be addressed or fixed to its best ability in the Wellington community. I believe that having a weekly program should be recommended to young people at the age of thirteen. That it should be given out in the mail that way parents or guardians know about the program. It will basically have speakers such as police officers, previous addicts who have a career now, people who have worked in rehabilitation, firefighters, and psychologists. They will speak about topics and where those choices can lead you in life as well as how to protect yourself in any type of situation. Each speaker could have a month to themselves and it could be once a week. This could help with mental health, decline in crimes, and having knowledge on the punishments received pertaining to the specific laws broken. This program of course is optional but should be very well advertised. Since at the age of thirteen is usually when kids start to make poor choices due to peer pressure, I think having access to this program will be beneficial. As well as many kids may have parents who don't know how to go about certain topics with their kids. I believe there should be a program available to parents that can help them to notice certain health issues or bad habits in their child. Many parents do not believe or have the knowledge on mental health since it is so extensive. If parents are educated on common mental issues this can avoid potential harm within their kids or others around them. This is only a brief idea that came into my mind to help the community and set a very good example to others.

The Village of Wellington can improve the safety of the overall village in a multitude of ways. Firstly, starting with improving the safety revolving around COVID-19. COVID-19 is of particular danger to the elder. This should be the village's main concern. The village can make stricter laws enforcing the citizens to wear masks when in public. The village can also encourage businesses to have their social workers take tests to make sure they are suitable to work around others, thus decreasing the possibility of spread. If workers are sick, make sure to give the suitable time off to fully recover. They can also encourage safety and washing of hands. By implementing these tactics, the village as a whole will be able to better combat COVID-19.

Internet safety is also an important factor that the village can take into account, especially for our youth. The village should encourage schools to have mandatory schooling lessons about the dangers of the internet, and how to stay safe. This also ties into fire safety, by educating children on the importance of fire drills and ways to avoid starting fires through videos or lessons, the village of Wellington can be more safe. Addressing the issue of traffic safety is also important, as this again is something that is important in keeping youth safe, particularly those who walk and bike to school. By making sure sidewalks and traffic stops are fully functional, and repairs are made when needed, the village will be able to cut down on the possibility of accidents or harms to citizens. Lastly crime prevention, the village should make sure to always encourage law enforcement to be present in high traffic areas with people. By also increasing overall police presence, this will decrease the probability of crime in the Village of Wellington.

During the past year, humanity has been facing one of its greatest recent threats, COVID-19. The contagious disease spread to almost every country on Earth, leaving death in its wake. Florida has recently reached 30,000 COVID-19 deaths, while the U.S. has surpassed 500,000. Florida's government as well as the federal government share responsibility for many of these deaths. Quicker and more decisive action would have meant less spread of the covid virus. Social gatherings were allowed and places in which people gather remained open during the early months of the virus' contagion. In the event of another contagious disease, a quick legislative ban on large social gathering and restrictions on businesses will prevent the spread and save many lives.

This taskforce could be made up of business owners, city officials, health officials and community members. This way the Village of Wellington can represent all members of the community and hear their thoughts when it comes to addressing issues regarding infectious diseases such as COVID-19. The task force would communicate on the state and federal levels to create a plan for mask mandates, the reinstatement of activities around the village, a place for the community to voice their concerns directly to those in the taskforce, etc. This would take the weight off of the council members' shoulders and allot business related to infectious diseases.

With vaccines becoming available to the public, there is a need for distribution locations, answering questions and handling of the vaccines which could be taken care of by the infectious task force. The CDC says Palm Beach is of a "high level of community transmission" which will only increase. The task force can share the responsibility with the village council to better plan the distribution of vaccines.

The Village of Wellington has a helpful page about COVID-19 on the website. "The plan includes using \$50 million [and]... \$10 million to help businesses. Each business can get up to \$25,000." Creating an Infectious Disease Task Force would allow them to handle the business who apply for this grant along with other responsibilities.

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Self-preservation is sometimes seen as the highest form of safety; Keeping oneself away from the dangers of the world has its perks, you know? However, if every person thought in this manner, the only thing protecting them, is them. The world should be more understanding of others, especially in Wellington. The village has never seemed like a neighborly place, everyone goes about their business as if no one else exists... and this makes it a cold, and frightening place for everybody. Say "hi" to neighbors once in a while, lend a hand to someone who needs direction, and take it as a blessing if anyone goes out of their way to lend you a hand one day. Another interaction where the helper is shot down, is just going to be another cold, frightening person.

I vow everyday to try to be more caring for the people around me.

I hope others follow.

Stopping Suicide with Speaking

Yesterday, I saved a life. I'm not a lifeguard, or doctor, or lawyer. I'm just a kid who connected with another. Scrolling through Snapchat last night, I saw posts of an acquaintance I had met two years ago who wanted to die, to stop feeling what she was feeling. I swiped up, talked to her for a bit on the phone, and picked her up at 12:30am to go breathe and get some Taco Bell. After about a minute in the car, I asked her to put some music on, and we both sang and laughed to some dumb song she chose. At that moment, I saw her pain go away, maybe temporarily, but it was gone, fought away by the laughter and the singing in the moment. The night continued and after 30 minutes, she was back home safe, both mentally and physically.

145 words used already, but with good reason. As we've socially distanced, we've mentally distanced as well. Quarantining has been a culprit of suicide rate increases anywhere from 1% to 145%. Because of our social distancing, we've become entranced in a life of sleeping, zoom calls, napping, more zoom calls, and eating, with no real pleasures in life anymore. People not only feel disconnected with others, but with themselves. Due to this, the city should focus more on events getting people to find themselves again. A buddy program, allowing people to connect with one another and just talk, would save others, same way it did my friend. It's hard for people to connect with random therapists on the phone, but being with others their age can help a lot more. Thirty minutes of my life saved another person's 17 years, and I know a program like this funded by the city would save countless others.

WC: 300

Sources: John A, Okolie C, Eyles E, et al. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on self-harm and suicidal behaviour: a living systematic review. F1000

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As of now, about one year ago today, the coronavirus became an ever present aspect of our society, which led to the shutting down of businesses, quarantines, social distancing, and the entire world being put on pause without much forewarning. However, as living in a global pandemic has since become our new reality, we have learned to adapt to these new circumstances and continue to go on with our daily lives for the most part. Due to the unforeseen shut down of many public areas at the start of the pandemic, many local businesses suffered as they were unable to re-open their doors after going months without incoming revenue. The financial hardships along with health conditions that people faced make it necessary that we put forward all necessary precautions in order to keep our community safe.

This pandemic has set back people's lives and in order to prevent any further lockdowns or shutdowns of businesses, our community must be proactive about trying to keep everyone safe. According to the CDC the most effective ways to prevent the spread of Covid-19 include the wearing of masks by all individuals in public places, avoiding large gatherings, social distancing, and becoming vaccinated. With this in mind I find that it is imperative that the mask mandate must stay in place regardless of the actions of other states. Additionally, businesses should continue to run at no more than 50% occupancy and should have social distancing guidelines and hand sanitizer placed throughout the stores. Most importantly, the vaccine must be able to be distributed more effectively so that the spread of Covid-19 can be lessened and we can be able to safely return to what our lives once were.

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How to protect yourself & others. (n.d.). Retrieved March 10, 2021, from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

There are many things the Village of Wellington and I can do to help the community feel safer. Some of these things include having stricter regulations on traffic safety to lessen the number of car accidents and DUI's that may occur, giving cops more training so that when a crime occurs people feel more safe calling the police, not changing the mask requirements in the village until we are 100 percent sure that Covid-19 will not cause any more problems, and getting people more aware of the dangers the internet can cause to the youths of the Village of Wellington.

First and foremost, if we have stricter traffic regulations we can tremendously reduce the number of car accidents that can happen. By inputting these new regulations we can have the people of the village be more cautious of their surroundings and consciously think about their driving environment and how it would affect the others on the road. It would also lessen the amount of drunk driving that occurs but for that to happen people need to know that there actually will be consequences to their actions no matter their gender or race especially in the younger generation who are driving and don't take the law seriously.

Secondly, I believe that cops should be given more training so that people will feel more comfortable asking for their help and not be afraid of anything happening to them if they get pulled over. Currently, in the climate we are in, many people do not feel safe enough to call the police because of how they have been dealing with certain situations. To fix this we need to give officers more training on what to do in certain situations so that things can be dealt with in a calm and civilized manner especially in situations involving people with mental health issues. This will significantly improve the reputation of police officers to many people and make many much more likely to feel safe enough to call the police which can help prevent crime.

Thirdly, we shouldn't be too hasty in changing the mask regulations just yet because it might lead to us having more cases instead of the cases declining. This has been the case for many states and countries because they see that there is a decline in Covid cases so they automatically assume that the mask is not needed which may cause a worse spread than before. So to make sure the spread of coronavirus doesn't get worse we need to make sure to keep the mask regulations the same until we are completely sure that it will not cause any problems in the future. The Covid-19 pandemic is not something that should be taken lightly because it is a matter of life or death with a lot of people and people have even lost loved ones because of this pandemic so let's make sure we do not lose any more people to this pandemic.

Finally, the internet is a very vast place that can be accessed in any parts of the world. Many know that the internet is not necessary a safe place for our youths but many teenagers themselves do not know that which can cause many teens to be groomed, kidnapped, and sometimes they become victims of human trafficking. This means we should be more aware of what goes on in social media to keep an eye on the kids of the future. There are also a lot of dangerous trends that go on the internet that many kids might think is okay for them to do but in the end, it could cause serious harm and even death to them. The internet can also lead to many suicidal thoughts and even suicide among the teenagers in our village. This is why we need to make sure we are making an effort to connect with the teens and kids of the village and make sure that they know they can ask for help if they need to.

I am suggesting that the Village of Wellington takes measures to provide sanitization supplies to public areas in order to reduce the spread of Covid-19, and other illnesses. For example, such sanitization supplies could include hand washing stations, hand sanitizer and disposable sanitizing wipes. These supplies would make it easier for people to disinfect themselves and their surroundings which would decrease the transmission rates of common sicknesses. Implementing the objects into public places with high amounts of foot traffic would enable people to ensure that they are not contracting or spreading any germs that they would otherwise be exposed to. The costs of this suggestion are directly correlated to effectiveness of the implementation. If people use sanitation supplies at a high rate then the cost will be slightly higher but it can easily be justified. At a conservative estimate hand sanitizer can be bought at 21¢ per ounce and hand washing stations can be bought for \$489 and are more cost effective on a long term basis. Since the barrier to entry is very low, it is possible to implement this suggest in localized areas and observe the illness rates in said areas to determine their effectiveness, before rolling this suggestion out to other areas in need.

Sources for price estimates:

Hand washing station pricing:

https://www.portablehandwashing.com/products/polyjohn-portable-hand-washing-station-handstand-psw1-1001?dfw_tracker=90381-C1966720&utm_source=google&utm_medium=surfaces&utm_campaign=shopping%20feed&utm_content=free%20shopping%20clicks&campaignid=12406136561&adgroupid=116514343845&creative=500433600958&matchtype=&network=u&device=c&keyword=&qclid=Cj0KCQiA1pyCBhCtARIsAHaY_5eEw9lusCX1tMFpdHHmrp9GyJbBzuAhXA5QC210YOV9hcJU7quVrX0aAgD9EALw_wcB

Bulk Hand Sanitizing Pricing:

<https://crwine.com/product/bulk-hand-sanitizer-6-gallon-jug-case/>

Covid has pretty much affected every single person that lives on our planet. So many tragedies have occurred due to this virus. Looking at the positive side of how covid- 19 tends to affect people, the younger people tend to have less severe symptoms. But the elderly or people with autoimmune diseases or heart problems could experience the symptoms of covid-19 much stronger. Due to these observations on the virus. Some steps should be taken to ensure the safety of the community of Wellington.

The CDC strongly recommends staying “6 feet apart”. All stores and restaurants should make sure to keep people properly socially distanced. Restaurants should also have most of their seating outside. According to the CDC, the coronavirus has a harder time being transmitted when you are outside. All restaurants should also make it mandatory for people to wear masks. There should be no service given to a customer who is not wearing a mask.

Masks help prevent respiratory particles from being transmitted between people which as a result makes covid harder to spread. Workers of every store and restaurant should be making sure that all the employees and customers are not only wearing masks, but also wearing the masks properly. Employees of workplaces should also follow the social distancing guidelines. Employees of workplaces should also have their temperatures checked before helping customers.

If as a community we work together to keep each other safe we can beat Covid!

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Relatively the community Wellington is a safe place to live and grow up. With its wide spread of knowledge of community safety being taught to kids from a young age and relatively low crime rate many wouldn't see the need for improvement. During daylight hours it's easy to get from one place to the other without getting the feeling of being watched or threatened, but that all changes once the sun sets and the shadows are casted overhead. Kid coming home from after school activities that have lasted well into the later hours of the day are faced with walking home in the pitch black. Though there are many lamp post lightings near schools and along road area sporadically there are still many dark sidewalks without a once of light in sight to light the path ways.

Inorder to improve to feeling of community safety for kids who arrive home after dark there should be more lamppost lining the streets so riders and walkers can see where they are going. It is natural to feel as though someone is watching you once you can't see very well but by having more lamps to light up dark sidewalks citizens especially kids such as highschoolers who walk home at night feel just a little bit safer knowing that someone could see them if they are ever in trouble.

Streets such as South Shore Blvd and Big Blue Trace would benefit not just walkers and bikers but also divers. Roads such as these have very few lights that actually make it useful once night has fallen. By adding lamps it would help with visibility and probably help in preventing accidents. By adding the light post lamps along roadsides, community safety would improve.

I have the unique perspective of having lived in Wellington my whole life. Overall, I consider Wellington to be very safe from a crime perspective. However, there are some things I think could make Wellington even safer.

Wellington has grown over the years and there has been an explosion of growth since I was born. With that increase came more traffic. Just the other night there was a multi car accident on 441 and Lake Worth Road. I think more traffic police and more aggressive ticketing for aggressive drivers and speeders would help lower accidents and curb the speeders through school zones. Along these same lines maybe make the red lights overlap in both directions for an additional second or two.

Children driving golf carts recklessly is something else I've noticed. It's only matter of time until someone gets really hurt. More sidewalks would prevent people from having to walk in the road. Something else I would like to see is a more visible police presence. I'm sure there are police patrolling but it would be nice to see them and its also a deterrent.

Given the current state of the world, it is important to trust the experts. If we are to effectively combat Covid-19, each U.S. citizen should follow CDC guidelines. Although it is illegal to enforce the current mask mandate in Palm Beach County due to an executive order signed by Governor Ron DeSantis, it is imperative that everyone wears a mask outside of their homes. Thus, it is up to each individual in our community, including myself, to keep each other safe by following Covid-19 precautions.

Initially, one thing I can do to help keep myself and the community safe is limit my excursions. In doing so, I can effectively limit my exposure to Covid-19. Another thing I can do to help keep myself and the community safe is wear a mask when outside of my home. By doing this, I can help to slow the spread of Covid-19 because wearing a mask makes the transmission of Covid-19 from one person to another less likely. One more thing I can do to help keep myself and the community safe is get the vaccine when it becomes available. When one gets a vaccine, they develop a level of immunity against the virus. As more individuals receive the vaccine, herd immunity will be reached. Since reaching this will help keep the community safe, everyone should be vaccinated.

Ultimately, I feel as though the decision of the state government to not allow mask mandates to be enforced has severely hurt the Village of Wellington by enabling individuals to not follow the guidelines put in place to protect the community as they will not be punished. Although this decision makes it harder for our community to stay safe, I can help keep myself and the community safe by following all guidelines established by experts.

I believe that in order to keep the community even safer than it is, we can incorporate some new roads and covid precautions. Traffic safety is an important topic as accidents on the road happen everyday. Incorporating new roads on 441 or southern can reduce this risk and allow for safer driving and more comfortability on the road. Another aspect towards safety in Wellington is crime prevention. Simple solutions toward this could be adding more lights to ungated communities, maybe installing cameras in areas where crime is known to be higher, and make constant remarks toward leaving valuables in your car. Next would be fire safety. General messages regarding making sure your fire alarms are up to date and have tested them to work are a great way to prevent any fires and a perfect form of practicing fire safety. We are not as dry of a state as say California, but we should never take anything for granted and make sure that a situation like that will never happen. To further prevent fires from spreading, we should make mandatory dryer vent cleanings all around town. This could boost the local economy and also rid all houses and complexes of lint and flammable material caught in vents of the living space. Next would be internet safety. There isn't much to control when it comes to this aspect but always make sure you are talking to someone trustworthy that you may not know when talking online. There are plenty of predators and people out there looking to hurt the world, and preventing this through the phone is one way of avoiding any unnecessary situations. Lastly, if as a community we can keep the covid-19 guidelines in place, regardless if the state is opening up, it will give us a higher chance of eradicating all covid and being ready to move back to normal life. It isn't fair to keep this repeated cycle of agony in set, and staying on guidelines and protocol when everything opens is a great way to stay clean.

One of the scariest things humans can experience is not knowing what will happen. Humans have a natural fear of the dark, since it limits our sense of sight in which we rely heavily upon. Having an irrational fear of the dark can cause many people to feel they are being constantly watched or something will happen during the night. This is why the amount of people walking in the evening is significantly lower than when I see in the morning or afternoon. Increasing the amount of street lights around the area will cause more people to be active at night and be more active at night. It might seem unnecessary to add more lights since it is a time where people go to sleep, however, those who do work at night or active public activities at night could add more lights for those attending those events to feel much safer while enjoying their night out. This would also add extra revenue to the Village of Wellington by having more people go outside and join those activities. By increasing the amount of street lights on the street. It'll make people in communities close by more likely to walk from their house to wherever the activity is. For example, at the South Florida Fair, with the amount of parking that is limited, it causes people to park in areas a bit more distant which may have little lighting during the walk towards the fair. Their fears are all not too irrational, because more lights will prevent mugging and attacks, even though they are very uncommon here in Wellington. More lights will also attract more people to Wellington, as it'll be a much more busy area because more people will be walking around at night. Adding a couple of streetlights on public roads near many neighborhoods, will also attract more people to those neighborhoods, since Wellington is already a very friendly community.

March 2020, the time where a virus named Coronavirus, changed our lives completely right before our eyes. At the time, no one knew what to expect from this virus, it was all so new to us and we all knew so little about it. We used to live our lives completely normal where no masks were necessary, we could be in groups as large as 100 people no problem, we could easily travel, and the distance between us didn't matter. COVID-19 was not taken that seriously at first, and to this day it still is not taken super seriously, but there are still ways we as a community can help keep our community and people as safe as possible. COVID-19 is still in full effect and cases are still spreading. According to the CDC, some of the best ways that us as a community can prevent the spread of corona is to get vaccinated if possible, wear a mask the correct way, stay at least 6 feet apart from others, and to avoid crowds/poorly ventilated spaces. In order to keep our community safe, all of these should continue to be mandated across our community so that we can hopefully lessen the spread of the virus. Also, if possible, our community should open up more areas around town for people to get vaccinated. Getting the vaccine is difficult enough, so instead of having those eligible for the vaccine drive out to places such as Miami, we can allow for more places around our community to give out the vaccine. According to Florida Health COVID-19, there are a total of 1,952,733 positive cases in the state of Florida. This is why it is extremely important for us as a community to follow these guidelines to keep us safe.

As residents of Wellington, we know the exact moment when the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) comes to town with the horse trailers and cars that cost more than some of our houses. Though the equestrian activities do account for some economic gain in the community, especially seen last year with an economic benefit of around \$200 million¹, the influx of people coming from all states and 52 countries² does raise concerns.

There have been some increased traffic accidents due to this international travel to Wellington for the WEF, like an accident that transpired in 2016 that ultimately led to the fatal deaths of two equestrian riders³. Another incident happening with a woman in her golf cart being hit by a school bus during the 2019 WEF⁴. These incidents come with the fact that we have drivers who aren't used to driving, typically seen with the people coming from New York or New Jersey, or they aren't familiar with the roads around the area which could lead to unnecessary traffic jams.

A potential solution to the situation would be for the Village of Wellington to look at the traffic intersections that are hot stops for the WEF, like Pierson Road and South Shore Boulevard that funnels most of the equestrian-related traffic, especially with the weekend events. Though cops posted at the intersection do try and help the traffic, however, the one roadway into those events causes enormous backups during times that may inconvenience Wellington residents who want to go out. Maybe there could be considerations as to expanding the roads that lead into those events to prevent heightened traffic accidents during equestrian season. For the safety of not just our visiting patrons, but also our permanent Wellington residents, we need to do renovations for traffic safety.

¹ "Palm Beach International Polo Season." *The Palm Beaches Florida*, 2 Feb. 2021, www.thepalmbeaches.com/top-event/palm-beach-international-polo-season#:~:text=More%20Fun%20Things%20to%20Do%20in%20Wellington&text=The%20festival%20draws%20riders%20from,over%20the%2012%2Dweek%20event. Accessed 4 Mar. 2021.

² Idle, Jillian. "Village of Wellington Economy Strikes Gold Thanks to the Equestrian Industry." *WPTV*, 14 Jan. 2020, www.wptv.com/news/region-c-palm-beach-county/wellington/village-of-wellington-economy-strikes-gold-thanks-to-the-equestrian-industry. Accessed 4 Mar. 2021.

³ "Two Equestrians Die after Wellington Car Crash." *Horse Authority*, 10 Apr. 2019, horseauthority.co/two-equestrians-die-after-wellington-car-crash/. Accessed 4 Mar. 2021.

⁴ "Woman Stable after Golf Cart-Bus Collision near WEF." *The Chronicle of the Horse*, www.chronofhorse.com/article/woman-stable-after-golf-cart-bus-collision-near-wef. Accessed 4 Mar. 2021.

Whereas the COVID pandemic has been raging across the United States and there has been a general lack of regulation with regards to state of Florida, it is the opinion of this essay that in every public setting the village should mandate (in the case of a private area) or provide (in the case of a public area) for adequate sanitation, even if the places themselves are not sanitized beforehand. With most discourse around COVID-19 being its ability to travel through air particles, it is easy to forget the very prominent issue of surface to surface contamination that occurs on an everyday basis. Something as simple as putting your hand on the railing of a staircase, or using a door knob to open a door can potentially put you at risk for possible infection. As cases begin to drop and people begin to use their masks less and less this can lead to not just more airborne transmission but virtually every surface in a public area being a potential health risk.

Therefore, if this is such a risk to public health and citizens of Wellington, in major public areas such as malls, parks, or shopping centers, there should be at least one village mandated hand sanitation station to prevent transmission of COVID. In some of those settings it is the opinion of this essay that private companies cannot be trusted with disseminating these sanitation means as they are not kept up to standard or regularly refilled. Further, even if/when the pandemic is behind us these sanitation stations should stay as other widespread illnesses such as the common cold and the flu are often spread by surface to surface contact.

This pandemic has completely altered our lives forever. Cases are still on the constant rise and especially in Palm Beach County. We are losing people to this virus daily and this needs to be put to an end. The Village of Wellington should limit in dining seating and have a curfew.

The access of dining seating causes more exposure to COVID for these workers and locals. This option of in dining seating needs to be restricted again, to only online orders so our community stays safe. People being able to take their masks off and eat leads to their germs spreading even quicker. With this new restriction, there would be a significant decrease in cases. As well, the longer this restriction is in place, the quicker we can go back to normal life in Wellington

Curfew mandates were installed in Wellington last year, but a city curfew would be very significant. The curfew would allow people of the community to have prevention of the corona virus. As well, would help crime prevention. This curfew would ensure people are safe in their homes and less exposure to COVID.

Overall, the Village of Wellington should install these restrictions to make COVID stop spreading and ensure the safety of the community. It is important during this time to work together and fight through this hard time. The Village of Wellington can help in so many ways, but these are the biggest concerns in my opinion. Thank your for your time and consideration about my ideas.

There is several things that the Village of Wellington can work towards to help improve the safety of myself and others. For one the most obvious would be COVID-19, which the village can help to prevent greatly. The use of masks can be more strictly enforced helping to slow the spread of the virus. Not only this, social workers can also be tested over a certain period of time to help protect them and their families while being essential to the movement of society.

Next the Village can focus on traffic safety making sure school zones are strict with speed limits, while also making ticketing more severe for speeding in a school zone. Especially with lots of construction as well the safety of workers on busy roads are ensured. This can be done by increasing ticketing and the severity of the tickets as well.

Wellington also contains lots of schools, so it is important especially since many are online that students understand internet safety. This can be done by having schools go over lessons on why it is important to stay safe on the internet and how to achieve that.

I don't believe crime is a huge issue in Wellington. With that being said it is still important to support local law enforcement to make sure everyone is being kept safe. Not only this, but by increasing the size of law enforcement more people are able to work, while being able to work less and have minimum engagement with others while on duty.

Lastly fire safety is important while many people are now cooking from home and are not able to go out. It is important that the village make sure that residents are notified of the possible fire occurrences.

As a student and resident of picturesque Wellington, Florida, I certainly want to see the community thrive. I am a student of Wellington High School as well as a competitive swimmer for the Wahoos of Wellington Swimming Club. I spend my days either in school or training at our beautiful aquatics complex which has become a second home for me. Living in these uncertain times, there are many dangers we run into quite often. The threat of Covid-19 is a real danger to the residents and contributors to the Village of Wellington.

With the community's best interest in mind, I believe there are things which residents can do as well as some things that the Village of Wellington can put into place which will help in keeping everyone safe and out of harm's way. These are simple, yet effective ways of drastically reducing the transmission and contraction rate of Covid-19 in our community.

I believe the Village of Wellington should consider investing funds to make hand sanitizer stations available all throughout the city. Just a small hand sanitizing dispenser in areas of high traffic would go a long way in curbing the spread of this malicious virus. Everyone would be encouraged to use the stations and we would most likely see a civilian population that is more protected and readily equipped to combat the deadly coronavirus. We are all in this together in the fight against the virus, so everyone cooperating with one another is crucial to eliminating this virus from our lives and getting back to a pre-covid routine.

With the world in the frenzy of a pandemic, protecting people from bacteria seems to be incredibly helpful. Ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our community is so important and contributes to the end of this pandemic as well. Ensuring that public places are cleaned well enough and putting guidelines in place may be the middle ground between reopening and safety.

To keep the people in our community safe, implementing better cleaning procedures in public places such as restaurants and schools may help to reduce the amount of people who get sick/infected. Right now, each restaurant cleans differently and on their own merit. If the Village of Wellington implemented standard and thorough cleaning regulations that are required after every party that is seated at a restaurant, more people are likely to eat out and less people are likely to get sick from doing so, which is a win-win situation as the economy would be more stimulated with less citizens suffering.

The same can be said for schools, especially since many people are brick and mortar again. Cleaning the schools well will ensure less spread and will help lessen the time spent contact tracing. People will feel more safe and comfortable going to school if certain cleaning regulations were put in place for every time a student or employee sits somewhere and it would also reduce movement as well.

Overall, implementing these better and more thorough cleaning regulations in public places may just help everyone in the community.

It is currently March of 2021, almost one year since our city of Wellington, along with the rest of the country, was placed under lockdown on March 13, 2020. Spring break turned from one week to two, to months being stuck at home while a deadly virus rapidly spread across the globe. Now that we all have gotten as used to living in a pandemic as we can, we shouldn't have to continue living this way. This is where we need the Village of Wellington to step in.

It all starts with the simple efforts: wear a mask, social distance, quarantine if you have been exposed or if you have symptoms. Those come with some sacrifice but have to be done if we ever want to go back to 'normal.' Now comes how we all can help our community while practicing those efforts: make donations to homeless shelters, food banks, and local charities focusing on covid relief, order take-out from local restaurants who are struggling to stay open and provide for their families, pay it forward at a drive through, among so many other ways (1). Our community could always benefit from some love, especially during these times.

Now, our citizens can do all of these things, but the main issue is that covid is still spreading. The Village of Wellington has worked hard this past year to accommodate for the pandemic and for the people (2). The Village previously had an open testing site, opening this back up and even opening another testing center across Wellington will provide easy access to our community to remain safe and getting tested when exposed or sick. Now with the vaccine, the Village should do the same once vaccines are further approved to more of the population.

Resources

- (1) - "8 Ways You Can Help Your Community Amid the COVID-19 Crisis" - EarthJustice
- (2) - [COVID-19 in the Village of Wellington](#)

Topic: COVID-19

We can help better our community by uniting together and teaming up with the Village of Wellington. Over the past year, the entire world has gone through the tragic times of dealing with the CoronaVirus. Around this time, last year, I was in my AICE Global Perspectives class working on a class project with my fellow classmates. We heard the principal of our school announce to the entire school that our Spring Break was going to be extended to two weeks. I remember being so happy in that moment but little did I know that those two weeks would turn into no school for months and later online school. Although, we are getting back to normal by going back to physical school. In person school is still not the same, school is now a ghost town and is dying down. I truly believe that our community along with the Village of Wellington can change our daily lives and restore them back to normal. We can reduce and prevent COVID-19 by setting new rules in schools, public areas, and even at home. Wearing masks is one thing but also wearing protective gear such as gloves and clothing that covers your body is a better choice. As students enrolled in Wellington High School we can also create a club called "Prevent Covid." In this club, students can create projects that help the community and involve activities that help prevent this virus. Students can go along in groups and hand out gloves and masks to individuals who are less fortunate and can't simply afford any protection. Students can also create projects that involve social distancing but yet can change the school back to normal. This project can be called "Save Prom 2021", students can work on a prom for the Seniors and still enforce social distancing.

What I think the Village of Wellington can do to keep our community safe is to continue to enforce the mask mandate and continue to remind its residents of its importance. It has been about a year since the Covid-19 pandemic first started, and recently I have seen in this community that many residents seem to be easing up on wearing masks. There have been many times when I stepped into a business and seen that individuals just outright refuse to wear masks. This is even after they have been asked by staff and others to do so. Since cases are starting to go down and vaccination rates are increasing it seems that residents think they are safe. But this is not the case. According to Palm Beach Daily News, "if residents relax too quickly, the number of infections could spike again." I feel it is important for Village of Wellington officials to remind the people to continue following the mask mandate. Especially because the overall population has not been vaccinated. Until either the majority of residents have been vaccinated I do not think it will be safe to lift the mask mandate. To help push citizens to wear masks the Village of Wellington should continue to post signs and make announcements. They should also stand up for business and their employees who follow these rules. As a fast-food worker myself there are times I feel powerless to do anything when customers refuse to wear masks, so some help would be great.

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“What do you think the Village of Wellington, or you, can do to help keep yourself and/or the Community safe?” This is a very interesting question because there are a great number of ways the Village of Wellington can become a safer community. At the moment, the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a detrimental toll on the community and people’s mental health and I believe there are ways to improve the situation for everyone.

To begin, the pandemic has caused many people to be stuck indoors all the time while everyone was in quarantine. The lack of outdoor time and social interaction for people can take a huge toll on someone's mental health. But, now that the COVID-19 case numbers are decreasing, many people are starting to get vaccinated, and summer months are coming up, I think it would be a very good idea to open more parks and have more activities outside. If there are more parks that are open, people will be encouraged to go outdoors and spend time with their households in a new environment. Of course everyone at the park would have to take all safety precautions to make sure everyone was six feet away apart, wearing masks, and other safety measures, but I personally think this would be a great idea for everyone’s mental health.

Once the pandemic finally comes to an end, I think the Village of Wellington should host a festival at one of the parks to celebrate everyone being able to come back together. This festival would encourage people to stay safe now, so people have something to look forward to at the end of COVID-19. So in conclusion, I think the solution to keeping Wellington’s mental health safe through the pandemic would be to open more parks.

In an age of ever-changing technology, one problem constantly plagues cities across the world - traffic accidents. Even the safest cities, including Wellington which ranked as the 16th safest city in Florida according to a 2021 report by safewise¹ struggle with traffic accidents. Out of the 67 counties, Palm Beach County in which Wellington is located in ranks 62nd in safest places to drive in Florida with a total of 23,914 car accidents for the 2017 year, according to Prosper Law Firm².

Traffic problems can arise from multiple factors, including poor signage and distracted driving. To curtail distracted drivers, Palm Beach County police officers could be instructed to make distracted driving a more targeted issue, requiring training that would enable officers the ability to more easily spot the signs of a distracted or even inebriated driver. Another problem that can be actively addressed by the village is poor signage, specifically at night. According to the National Safety Council³, despite making up only a quarter of driving time, 50% of traffic deaths happen at night. Pedestrians, especially older ones, may have a difficult time seeing yield or stop signs throughout the city. This can be solved with the installation of LED lights surrounding the border of the sign, which would help illuminate the lettering making it easier to notice. These signs would be especially helpful in the backroads of Wellington which are not nearly as well lit as areas such as near the mall. This practice is popular throughout the United States and is slowly becoming more prominent on signs everywhere.

¹ <https://www.safewise.com/blog/safest-cities-florida/> top 50 safest cities in Florida

² <https://www.prosperlaw.com/which-city-florida-has-most-car-accidents/> 67 counties of Florida ranked in terms of least-most accidents

³ <https://www.nsc.org/road-safety/safety-topics/night-driving#:~:text=While%20we%20do%20only%20one,2016%2C%20according%20to%20Injury%20Facts.>
Driving facts

The Village of Wellington is already one of the safest areas in Florida. According to AreaVibes, using FBI crime reports data, "The evidence provided by these graphs show Wellington being safer than 82% of cities in Florida and 70% of cities across the United States." In Wellington, you are almost 2 times less likely to be the victim of a crime compared to other cities in Florida. With that being said, there is always room for improvement. One key way to decrease crime in an area is through programs that target the youth of the community. If children are educated and receive sufficient support, they will likely never fall into a life of crime. If the Village of Wellington works with the elementary and middle schools in the area, especially the ones in lower income neighborhoods, they can intervene before children resort to crime. These programs can include behavioral interventions, DARE, conflict resolution curriculum, recreation programs, and many others. The central focus would be showing children a way to resist and avoid crime. Another way to decrease crime is to allocate more police resources towards crime heavy areas. The police should be focused on crime prevention and monitoring of the problematic regions. Police presence in an area can both deter crime, and increase feeling of safety for members of the communities. Knowing that help is close by can reduce anxiety among the population, especially for the people that live close to crime. Overall, to keep Wellington safe, only small changes need to be made, but the smallest of changes can have the greatest impact on people's futures and comfortability.

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[www.areavibes.com/wellington-
fl/crime/#:~:text=In%20Wellington%2C%20Florida%20you%20have,burglary%2C%20t
heft%20and%20vehicle%20theft](http://www.areavibes.com/wellington-fl/crime/#:~:text=In%20Wellington%2C%20Florida%20you%20have,burglary%2C%20theft%20and%20vehicle%20theft).

There is no shortage of issues that are plaguing our community, especially given the rise and powerful nature of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, as residents of Wellington, there are several areas of concern involving our safety. One of these is traffic. As we are a largely populated area, there are numerous opportunities for accidents to occur. Additionally, the equestrian and recreational features of our community - parts of why our area is so desirable - only bolster the possibility of traffic incidents.

One concern involving year round traffic and roadway use is bikers, walkers, and those who use the sidewalks and street crossings. The often optimal weather conditions of our area as well as the various parks and recreational areas encourage residents to use more environmentally friendly modes of transportation. However, there are often close calls and the occasional accident involving such pedestrians. Local legislation may be put in place calling for modified procedures on such transportation methods, or public service announcements about wearing bright and visible colors, reflective clothing, wearing lights, and other safety protocols. There has also been an increase in attention towards golf cart use on roads in Wellington, especially referring to the legislative concern this past summer and fall [1]. Residents must be under proper safety procedures to prevent accidents pertaining to this issue.

Likewise, special procedures during the height of equestrian season should also be implemented. The issue raised about the implementation of golf carts as a legitimate means of transportation around the village is also of particular concern for seasonal equestrians, many who have to travel relatively short distances around training areas. Horse crossings are already seen on many streets. [2] The issue of widening the roads has also been discussed, as the influx in population during the colder seasons brings extensive traffic and can disrupt the lives of both year-round residents and those here for the season. Many more accidents occur. Improving the traffic procedures can create a more safe and efficient community.

Citations

- 1) <https://gotowncrier.com/2020/12/committee-reviews-comp-plan-with-an-eye-on-impact-for-the-equestrian-industry/>
- 2) <https://www.palmbeachpost.com/story/news/local/2020/08/08/wellington-eyes-new-rules-to-allow-golf-carts-on-some-pathways/42193709/>

One of the most important aspects of driving safely is awareness of one's surroundings. When learning how to drive, everyone is taught to always be checking the rearview mirrors and looking up ahead for any traffic. However, in some cases, obstacles limit a driver's vision and any oncoming vehicle remains unseen behind said obstacle. In most instances, a driver's vision is limited due to trees and bushes on street corners and in medians.

Through personal experience and conversations with other drivers, I have noted the major intersections on Ring Rd at the Wellington Green Mall have dangerous blind spots. Some of these intersections are 3-way stops and the others have stop signs in two directions but not for vehicles turning onto Ring Rd. The intersections with stop signs tend to cause the most confusion between drivers as cars turning onto Ring Rd have no stop sign and are blocked by tall bushes and trees in the median.

The Village of Wellington could do one of two things to ensure the safety of drivers in the community. By placing stop signs at each intersection on Ring Rd, confusion about who has the right of way and whether a car is coming or not will be resolved. Uniform 3-way stops will also organize the traffic and prevent build ups on the road. Another option would be to remove the vegetation on the median near the intersection, or shorten the hedges so that vision of oncoming vehicles will be clear. This will create a sense of reassurance in drivers by allowing them to have a clear vision of their surroundings when driving around the outside of the Wellington Green Mall, which gets very crowded at times. Either or both of these solutions will create a safer driving environment for the community.

The Village of Wellington is a tightly knit community, fostered for years with love in care, that has blossomed beautifully into what it is today. In this day and age, it's hard to get together like we normally did, but in that hardship it has made us all safer. Although restrictions associated with Covid-19 have been mandated well, they should still be built upon and made tighter than ever before as we reach the end of the quarantine era. As vaccines have started to roll in, and people are safe once again to hold their families and friends in their arms, we can once again begin to build our community with a multitude of love, fun and care like never before. To do this, though, the Village must urge people to stay as careful as possible to keep themselves and others safe as well. Despite many differences, this community has a great chance of pulling through and getting over the huge wall that is Covid-19.

To help keep myself and the community safe, I think that the Village of Wellington should attempt to strengthen community policing. Community policing is an excellent strategy for preventing crime and strengthening our community as a whole. It is focused on developing and building relationships within the community to reduce social disorder. PBSO already has 5 community policing deputies which is great, but I believe that increasing the number of community policing deputies to about 10 will help reduce crime in our community. This can be done if the Village of Wellington petitions to increase the amount of policing to the county of Palm Beach.

The village of Wellington is the home to hundreds of thousands of amazing people in society. These people everyday play a role in the community and are a necessary part of the community. Without these people acting everyday, Wellington wouldn't be the magical place it is. With that said, the safety of these people are very important. It is our responsibility to keep them safe and out of harm's way at all times.

Wellington is already considered one of the safest communities in the county, but far from perfect. The way the community handled covid-19 was on point to being perfect; but there were some drawbacks. From my perspective a majority of citizens never understood the seriousness of the mask mandate. This is the cause of a lot of covid cases, making it a serious issue throughout Wellington. Also on the topic of covid, another issue that is in need of an update is the public spacing. Whenever I go into a restaurant they seem to never be as spread out as they should be. They aren't putting everyone in the safest possible situation. We all know how the exponential growth of covid spreads and we cannot be willing to let anyone get it. I think that as a new driver, after having only driven for about 6 months that there needs to be more cops. The amount of cops on the road is not sufficient for the amount of reckless drivers and alcohol possessed men. There should be an increase in the amount of law enforcement to truly secure a safer road way for our children and adults.

Wellington is an amazing place, but no city is ever going to be perfect.

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, the reliance on technology for work, education, and entertainment has led to a drastic increase in the amount of time spent on the Internet. According to Forbes, “total internet hits have surged by between 50% and 70%” during COVID-19.¹ With this comes the need of implementing an educational program to ensure community members are aware of the risks of using the internet, as well as the disadvantages of excessive usage of technologies such as our phones, tablets, and televisions, as well as social media and streaming services.

It is significant to recognize the internet safety measures in place in the status quo in the Village of Wellington. Many respected members of the Public Safety Committee are law enforcement personnel, and it is seen how the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office has prioritized internet safety through their work. More specifically, the sheriff's office provides resources on their website related to Internet safety including their own “Internet Safety and Security” presentations, links, programs and videos.²

I believe that the Village of Wellington should increase access to resources such as these to continue to keep our community safe. For example, on the main Village of Wellington website, there can be a tab included to provide these resources. Another way to promote internet safety would be to start a week-long initiative in which each day there are alerts on the risks of the internet, as well as ways to reap the most benefits when using it. This can be done through the Village of Wellington's various social media accounts. Even after this pandemic is finally over, our reliance on the internet will persist as there continues to be development in our technology. With this, it is important to continue to promote internet safety through continued education in our community.

¹ Beech, M. (2020, March 26). COVID-19 pushes up internet use 70% and streaming more than 12%, First figures reveal. Retrieved March 12, 2021, from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/markbeech/2020/03/25/covid-19-pushes-up-internet-use-70-streaming-more-than-12-first-figures-reveal/?sh=6015567b3104>

² Internet safety. (2018, January 16). Retrieved March 12, 2021, from <https://www.pbso.org/services/community-services/crime-prevention/crime-prevention-programs/internet-safety/>

What the citizens of Wellington should do to ensure their safety while online

Safety is very important in this day and age and is something that we should all think about everyday, because you never know what could happen at any time. There are many dangers in this world, and there are many solutions as well that could protect you from a multitude of threats. Safety is important no matter what is going on around you, but online safety is as some would say “new territory” as many people still do not know how to remain safe online nor truly know how their technology actually works. To keep Wellington safe, here are some ways of stay protected while online.

For example, you shouldn't give out personal information about yourself or others, as well as not posting too much about your day to day life and weekly routine as strangers online could possibly use that important information to harm you in real life without knowing who they are nor what their motives are. With just giving out your first and last name, and around the area you reside in, there are multiple ways of finding out your address, phone number and a lot more important information about you. So sharing personal information online or in real life to people you do not truly know may be dangerous.

Another way that the citizens of Wellington could do to stay safe online could be to use a VPN. A VPN is a Virtual Private Network that provides you with privacy, anonymity, and security by creating a private network across a public network connection when online. A VPN will protect you in many ways including hiding your private information, escaping data-throttling, avoiding bandwidth-throttling and many more that will help you out and keep you safe while online. One thing a VPN won't do though, is stop you from making bad decisions online such as downloading things from untrustworthy sites which could cause a virus in your system. Before downloading anything online, you should do some research on it to insure your safety.

Cover Page

- Title of Essay: **“How to make driving and traffic more safe.”**
“What do you think the Village of Wellington, or you,
can do to help keep yourself and/or the Community Safe?”
- [REDACTED] & #26156224
- Author’s ELA Teacher’s Name : Mrs. Goldstein
- Name of the School attended: Palm Beach Central High School
- Author’s Grade Level: 12th
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300 words paragraph form; single space 12 point font black

Safety is always on people’s minds, whether it is about themselves or their family/friends. Traffic safety, regarding safety while driving is something that everyone is always thinking about. There are many different types of ways to keep the citizens of Wellington safe while driving, such as police patrolling busy streets, and an even more measured suggestion would be to not drive at night or on holidays, since those are the busiest times on the streets. Specifically, safety with regards to traffic safety is key to protect one’s welfare. To stay safe, there are many things that one can adopt and be adapted into their everyday life in the area of traffic safety.

To begin with, while driving, one should always not be using their cell phone, because reports have shown that pedestrians and bike riders being hit by drivers who were texting while driving have become more and more common. Also, not only could a driver injure pedestrians or bike riders while they are driving distracted, but they can injure themselves, ending up in a car crash. These events can simply be avoided by drivers not using their cell phone while driving, and focus on the road. This is one way that traffic and driving can become more safe.

As well as texting while driving, one should also not have a drink before driving, because we all know that alcohol can mess with one’s thought and reaction process. Studies have shown that people who add one drink before driving have a slower and duller reaction time to braking when compared to someone who has not had anything to drink at all. This is where the warning/phrase: “Don’t drink and drive” came from, because if you drink and drive, you will not only be hurting yourself but someone else potentially. Finally, a word of advice, if you are going to drink, have a designated driver, so that you and that person can drive safely back to your home.

To close, every driver should be paying attention to their surroundings, because if the driver was not paying attention, they could have possibly hit a pedestrian crossing the road or a bicyclist. Also, if the driver was paying attention to their surroundings while being on the road, they would notice the upcoming road signs and whether or not there was a construction site or something

else going on the road ahead of the driver. Finally, a driver that was paying attention to their surroundings compared to others that were not aware of their surroundings had faster times slowing down and stopping to pedestrians, bicyclists, and wildlife on the road.

In conclusion, three ways we can improve traffic safety are one, no texting while driving, two, no drinking before driving, and three, drivers should pay attention to their surroundings. If people would adapt these three habits or suggestions, then the road would become more safer in the future, hopefully. Also, if people adapted these three habits, it would cause less parents or guardians to worry about their children or even themselves driving on the road. The end.

What do you think the Village of Wellington, or you,
can do to help keep yourself and/or the Community Safe?

Keeping Wellington Schools Safe

Safety is the condition of being protected from causes of danger. This should be the building block for all infrastructure from road safety to school safety. Today I'll be discussing the problems and hopeful solutions to some issues involving school safety. To start off with, school safety as of today has taken steps to make our schools a safer place already with IDs and checking people before they enter the school. These are good steps but it is still easy for someone to get into the school if they really wanted too. A higher security entrance could work but it also compromises efficiency for the school and takes away a lot of innocent students' privacy. Another place where safety is a big concern is students within the school. Most school shooters were active or once part of their school. When talking about safety, it is not all about the best protection but helping the students so no one ever gets pushed to that point of breaking. A stronger stand on mental health and trying to help the root issue instead of what we have now. Our security now is small and insignificant compared to actual police departments. A higher number of security guards could be a good benefit to Wellington's school system. The school parking lot is a hazardous place as well, with young drivers tired from just waking up, it can be a dangerous walk to the school. A few more people out guiding traffic could help a lot with efficiency and minimize the chance of people getting into accidents. With these ideas I hope that the city of Wellington can improve the schools and make them safer for the students and teachers that attend them on a daily basis. These safety measures could decrease the amount of needless injury that is brought on by accidents and dangerous people that have an evil agenda against people in school. Instead giving help to students could prevent any more danger.

Wellington Traffic Complications

It is often said that traffic safety is an obstacle that has been solved due to the changes that have been made throughout the year with specific regard to our local municipalities such as the City of Wellington. Yet we continue to have accidents happening every minute in this small town of Palm Beach County. So, to correct or improve traffic issues we can help improve safety for the community of Wellington and for its students by working to make school campuses safer for drivers and by perhaps slowing down traffic speeds on larger roadways.

Traffic is a huge problem in Wellington, especially in the morning when entering the school entrance at Palm Beach Central High School. A big line is formed as we all wait for the traffic lights to turn green. A particular reason for this is due to the time that students arrive. Throughout the day traffic accumulates as everyone is trying to drop off their children, but as well other citizens who are trying to pass by get trapped in the pile of traffic and can lead to a frustrating occurrence. Anticipating the amount of how many vehicles are nearby also with very minor space there is a chance that an accident can occur not only can that cause a problem but also incoming vehicles who are speeding can collide into the stopped vehicles.

Additionally, some of Wellington's busier roads need to be looked at and monitored for safety. Forest Hill Boulevard is one of the main roads that are busy that many vehicles pass by coming from different directions. Smaller parts of the road should be held off as and have a controlled or automated system that will stop small portions of traffic so that it does not become a pile throughout the entire roadway. Southern Blvd is also another road way that should be monitored as well.

To sum up everything that has been stated so far building or improving traffic control should be adjusted in order to prevent accumulated traffic and any type of collision.

101 On Web Safety

The internet is everywhere in cars schools and even in your pocket as we advance as a human race the internet will only grow and take up more of your life than you could ever imagine. The internet is a great tool used for many things such as research information storing and engineering but with every pro theirs a con many people exploit and misuse the power of the internet for their own personal gain or just to take advantage of a situation this essay is going to talk about different attacks that you might encounter just for clicking on the wrong link and how the people of Wellington could protect themselves from these attacks.

Let's talk about how someone can know your location and alot more information just because you clicked on a non secure website if you ever receive a link you've never heard of or the link is from a random person do not click on it if the website isn't secure or if you don't have the right precautions on your device the owner of the link can get a lot of information about you such as your name location and phone number. The number one way to protect yourself from these attacks is to not click the link but if you do click the link there is still away to keep yourself hidden this device is called a VPN vpn stands for Virtual private network with a VPN installed on your device it will set your location to somewhere random giving the owner of the website incorrect information and not your real information a way the village of wellington could help protect older people who aren't as familiar with the internet and are more susceptible to clicking on those risky links is to give homeowners access to a free and private VPN for their household so families in Wellington can browse safely.

Next let's talk about viruses you encounter viruses every day on the internet. A lot of viruses are disguised as many things such as flashy ads, gift prizes and even fake charities. What a virus does to your computer is it installs many things onto your device called malware. Malware can consist on spyware ransomware and just other malicious softwares, malware can get really bad to the point where your computer wont even turn on but the worst thing that can happen is that whoever made malware can now have full control of your computer's hardware and access to all documents on the device one the main ways a virus is let in is when carless user clicks on a non safe download link or gives up information for a fake cause however there is another way to help you just in case you click on a bad link or download its called an anti virus an anti virus scans you computers hardware and documents to make sure there isn't any suspicious activity going on some antivirus software will give you a notice if there is something wrong with your computer but some will also delete all malware or block the user for clicking on something that isn't trusted or safe. The village of wellington could give homeowners a discounted antivirus for their in-home devices so children or unknowing adults wont destroy their device with a virus.

Finally, these are just some ways to ensure that the people of wellington stay safe online and are protected from some of the most common attacks on personalized devices.

What do you think the Village of Wellington, or you,
can do to help keep yourself and/or the Community Safe?

Many actions have been taken for school safety but even then , there are still so many struggles to keep it safe and peaceful so that students like me can study and learn for our future . After the Stoneman douglas shooting that killed nineteenth students in 2018 , strict regulations have been put in place so that something as such will not be repeat in another school or even in the same school ; Even then , it didn't do much since the schools became more of a prisons for the hours Than a school .

We go to school to learn and grow , and I believe that no matter how many strict regulation put on us , It will not stop students or strangers from attacking students or the schools . Imagine being in a stressful environment where you are worried about your grade constantly , how people see you , what your friends think of you , the disappointment in your parents eye and knowing that you can ask for help from teacher , counselors or a friend you trust but you can't take that physical step because you feel that so below you , so you suck it and keep sucking it up until you break or snap and that where I believe it comes from : “ the problem of school safety “ . Bad mental is the biggest reasons that students and many adults do things they usually wouldn't and as a teenager myself , I can tell you for a fact that we are constantly suffer from high emotional drive and that most decisions that we take are mostly based on emotion . So if we can somehow convince students that it is okay to talk with someone if you feel overwhelmed then I believe most of our problems about school safety will be greatly reduced .

What do you think the Village of Wellington, or you, can do to help keep yourself and/or the Community Safe?

To help keep myself and others safe I can continue to do what I do in everyday life. When I go in public I make sure to keep my mask on and I have many safety habits in order to keep myself healthy from any viruses. The purpose of my essay is to provide guidance on the cleaning and disinfection of environmental surfaces in Wellington.

Masks should be worn in addition to staying at least six feet apart, especially around people who don't live with you. Wear your mask over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin. Being in crowds like in restaurants, bars, fitness centers, or movie theaters puts you at higher risk so avoiding these can put me in a better position to keep me safe. After being in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Frequently, touched surfaces should be cleaned AND disinfected on a daily basis. Tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks all fall into this category. Use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water aren't readily available. Cover all of your hands and rub them together until they are completely dry.

Unwashed hands should not be used to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth. When the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available, you should get it. You may be able to resume some activities that you had put on hold due to the pandemic once you are fully vaccinated. When coughing or sneezing, always use a tissue to cover your mouth and nose, or use the inside of your elbow instead of spitting. Dispose of used tissues in the garbage. Be on the lookout for signs and symptoms. COVID-19 signs include fever, cough, shortness of breath, and other symptoms.

What do you think the Village of Wellington, or you, can do to help keep yourself and/or the Community Safe?

In communities all around the world there are pros and cons of maintaining safety in all villages. Safety is one aspect that the people of Wellington can agree is important in society today. The main issues that are talked about today amongst the community are: failure to properly wear a CDC approved mask/facial cover, lack of locking up personal items in vehicles, and reckless driving through school zones.

In the last 14 days, the death rates of covid 19 are peaking at a little over 31 thousand, with a steady 1.95 million cases in all of Palm Beach. Wearing a mask is a big factor when in a worldwide pandemic. Wearing a mask avoids putting your life and others in danger. As of right now this is the most controversial law because many people refuse to wear a mask stating that it interferes with other health conditions (asthma, allergies, etc). A few members of the community wanted to follow the bandwagon with former president Donald Trump by not wearing a mask to make a political statement. Wearing a mask has been CDC proven to keep as many people safe as possible considering that the pandemic is passed through contact and mostly airborne. A proper mask blocks out any hovering germs that might be in the air around you, sanitizing kills the germs, and washing your hands with soap and water gets rid of the germs. There are so many valid reasons as to why wearing a mask when in public or even when coming in contact with other associates is important and required for safety.

Just in this past year there have been 522 motor vehicle thefts in the city of Wellington. Wellington is a rather well kept area with high class people, which makes a very easy target for robbery. Home robberies are a little more complex than car burglaries because cars can go unattended for long periods of time versus a house that is occupied 95 percent of the time. Locking up vehicles can decrease crime rates, prevent stolen items, and makes it difficult to hijack. Locking up your car can ultimately prevent you from a potential assault, or worse case scenario, murder. Many criminals that get caught mid

crime tend to act out of fear and get violent, locking up your vehicle can ensure your safety. For example, one who could not afford a house and is living in their car could possibly get hurt while trying to make a better living situation considering the condition they're in. Willie McCoy, a 20 year old up and coming rapper was shot 55 times by Vallejo police officers while napping in his car outside a popular Taco Bell. Employees alerted the police that there was an unresponsive male in his vehicle sleeping on their property, they assumed he was up to no good and decided to execute him. Refrain from keeping doors unlocked because accidents like this can happen.

Since 2013 there has been a continuous 13 percent increase in pedestrian death rate between ages 12-19. Children between the ages of 5-9 were killed in traffic crashes. 25 percent of all traffic accidents are caused by speeding. Speeding is a serious detail when it comes to getting behind the wheel. Many parents of the Wellington community work 9-5 jobs which means they don't have time to drop their kids off at school but maybe only live 5 minutes away from the campus, so they use an alternative, which is having their kid walk to school. As the years have gone by they have made walking a lot safer like placing crossing guards on every intersection within a 10 mile radius of the school building to guide the children on the street in a safe manner. Crossing guards can't control everything accidents happen, which is why the 25 mph in a school zone law was implemented as a backup. Following the speed limit guidelines can potentially save a child's life. Nothing is handed to you, everything is hard, being able to have the option to have your kid walk to school is so relieving to stressed out parents, single mothers, struggling parents etc. ensuring the child's safety is a priority.

In conclusion, there are many different ways to ensure someone's safety. Every decision you make can either harm somebody or keep them safe. It is important to come together as a community and enforce good safety practices and habits to keep the village of Wellington strong and healthy.

What do you think the Village of Wellington, or you, can do to help keep yourself and/or the Community Safe?

Being a parent is one of the most important and hardest things to do in life, you are in a constant state of worry and will always want to protect your child from any danger. But what if you can not always protect them in every situation. One situation I can think of is school, you drop them off and they are in the hands of someone else. Every parent will always think the worst when they are not with their child because it is instinct, how can we overcome that fear of not having safety for our children.

In my 10th grade year, Marjory Stoneman Douglas was the most horrific crime that i had heard about. That was the shooting that changed perspective on not just me but everyone as a whole. As a student myself I would fear that another incident could happen any day i went to school, as i sat in class i looked around the room for the nearest way to get out of the school in case of an emergency. It was not normal and slowly I felt like all my peers were starting to feel the same way. My school went into full safety effect and was more strict on the entrances into the school, the showing of school IDs, locking classroom doors, having auditorium "meetings" where we could be reasurassued that we should feel safe at school, But why didn't we feel safe yet?

I feel as if no matter what we could do as a community there will still be the fear of another incident happening, I feel this way because we may come together as a community but we will never know anyone's personal thoughts or feelings. The way I think everyone would feel the safest is with honesty, i think if we all think about the worst that could happen we prepare ourselves then if it ever did come to happen we were ready and hopefully do not lose anymore innocent lives then we already have. I think metal detectors are a good source to find out if there is anything bad entering a school, I feel that teachers should be allowed to be capable of having a weapon on them in case of emergency, only if it is through the law of course. At the end of the day there is only so much that we as a community can do to protect ourselves and our children, there is no telling in the future but there is telling in whether we were prepared or not.

What do you think the Village of Wellington, or you,
What can you do to help keep yourself and/or the Community Safe?

Covid-19 is a virus which has caused the whole world to be on stand for a year and have taken some many lives. As it is starting to look like there is a light at the end of the tunnel from this virus, we as a community must not let our guard down. Even though there is a vaccine to prevent this virus from spreading , we as a community must continue to follow the safety protocols to assure that it does not spread anymore in Wellington and affect our community with anymore losses of lives. The Village of Wellington can work together with the community to help bring down cases and help everyone that wants a vaccine get one. This will cause a decrease in the amount of cases we will get in a day.

Some ways of bringing down the amount of cases or stopping the virus is through wearing masks and making sure people are not near each other. For example the cdc says, "Wearing a mask helps protect those around you, in case you are infected but not showing symptoms". If we as a community keep wearing these masks in populated areas we can stop the spread and help those not getting it even if you don't know you got it. Additionally we should limit wear we go until the people that need the vaccine get it because it will help them stay safe and not feel like going outside is taking a risk on their lives. Furthermore, the CDC states, some ways to slow the spread of the virus is to get the vaccine, wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart from those you don't live with, and avoid going to crowded places. If we follow these steps as a community we should see a decline in cases and death rate.

As a result, we should continue practicing safety protocols. We should continue washing our hands, sanitizing all surfaces and covering when coughing or sneezing. We should be more self conscious about our surroundings and our neighbors. We should be more compassionate and patient. Another way we can prevent the spread is by educating others. There are a lot of people who are reluctant to listen or follow guidelines because they feel they are being controlled or invading their privacy or rights but we encourage them to understand that it is not a matter of control or depriving them of their rights. It is for the good of everyone and humanity. It will not only decrease the spread but it will also help the community to get back to some normality as it was before this pandemic.

Citations:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>

HS-71

Kassandra Canes

“What do you think the Village of Wellington, or you, can do to help keep yourself and/or the Community Safe?”

The world that we once knew has ceased to exist so there have been new protocols in place such as social distancing, wearing masks and lock downs. From the protocols stated it's easy to determine that the one of the public safety topics I'm speaking about is Covid-19. Throughout the year Covid has had drastic changes upon the community of Wellington. Since the beginning of Covid, Wellington has established an up to date solution that keeps us safe for instance limited capacity in places such as restaurants and shopping centers. With that being said, After a year of quarantine scientists have made a vaccine. To continue keeping the community safe the Town of Wellington should increase the number of testing sites to access the vaccine. This will lead to improvements in health, as we all know covid is a bacteria and the vaccine is to help less worsen it. It will also improve in places like the work space and schools. Currently, there is a minimal amount of students going to school because of virtual learning with that being said the vaccine can help send more kids to school resulting in better help academically and a boost in grades.

To begin, safety is very important. Safety plays a big part in our lives. Me as a person treats safety very seriously. But I can't be the only one. Making a change in my community so it could be safer, I will do it.

COVID 19 hit us really hard last year in March, and it's still a problem. COVID 19 caused virtual learning. COVID changed our lives dramatically, who ever thought that we would be in a pandemic wearing mask everywhere we go. But some people still deny wearing masks and that's a problem. I've been exposed to covid on my football team and we had to cut our season short, even though it wasn't the easy thing to do, but it was best for our safety. The spread of covid is serious and it isn't a joke at all. People think it's not real and people think we could go back to normal but we can't until it is finally gone. I believe stores and schools should get tougher on these restrictions. People being sent back to school and coming back with covid, not everyone but it's still not safe. There are new cases everyday in Florida and people still don't realize that covid isn't something to play with. There is a vaccine now. Finally something good is happening about Covid. To get rid of covid we are getting closer and closer, but that doesn't mean let back and get comfortable.

In conclusion, how i'm keeping myself and my family safe is :wearing a mask, hand sanitizer, wiping off door knobs, and by not sharing drinks. I know how dangerous this is so I won't play around with it. To keep these communities safe is by having hand sanitizers at the parks and handing out free masks. We forget sometimes, but by our parks having them or our pools it shouldn't be nothing to worry about. We need to keep our distance to be safe also. This will prevent covid cases.

What do you think the Village of Wellington, or you,
can do to help keep yourself and/or the Community Safe?

The internet is a web that everyone nowadays knows how to navigate but with this comes a big responsibility. It can be challenging because not all the people who are on the internet care about the safety. Internet safety is a topic that we all have heard before coming from our parents, teachers, school etc. To be safe on the internet there is a quality of things we can do to improve the internet safety for the community of Wellington and for their residents.

Internet safety is a topic that should be put more attention in it because most of the time we find ourselves most of our time on the internet and we tend to cross with people that not always are going to be nice to us or that will put things on our heads that are not true. One of the most bad common activities of the internet is cyber-bullying. A lot of kids mostly are victims of this type of bullying, sometimes they don't even know they are being victims of this. Cyber-bullying is one of the biggest reasons why we should take internet safety more seriously. We have the right steps to prevent this and the right steps to take internet safety seriously. This can be prevented and it would be a more safe environment for the people from Wellington and the students there.

We want the kids to feel safe and good in any environment that's why we should be putting more attention on what they do on the internet throughout the day. This topic is so important because now with everything of the pandemic happening and knowing the majority of things are made online or Zoom meetings, people spend more time on the internet so making this environment for them a safe one is really important for any person or their community. Internet safety is also about a variety of things, we already talk about cyber-bullying and checking on the kids but internet safety also means with who you share your information and how private your personal information is. This is so important for people to have in their minds that whatever they share on the internet should not be any type of compromising information.

In conclusion The community of Wellington and any community to be honest, should be more active and careful in what internet safety means and is because now that internet has a big role in our daily lives knowing the correct ways of using it would make this space a more safe environment for this community and everyone that is interested on keep the internet safe.

Citations: <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/net-safety.html>

<https://usa.kaspersky.com/resource-center/preemptive-safety/top-10-internet-safety-rules-and-wh-what-not-to-do-online>

What do you think the Village of Wellington, or you, can do to help keep yourself and/or the Community Safe during the pandemic?

Safety is the condition of being “safe”, which is the protection from undesirable outcomes and the likelihood of being faced with danger. Right now we sit in an unprecedented time where our daily lives are completely different, and the actions we take, as well as how we interact with other people, have been changed because of the pandemic. With the spread of the virus, Covid-19, and the way the world is handling it, we have come to a point where we are beginning to develop a vaccine, and the distribution of said vaccine is different all around the world. Certain places get it faster, and other places have to wait longer because they are either not considered priority, or there are too few vaccines to distribute there. Which is why, in order to keep ourselves, and the community safe, in Wellington, we need to keep up with certain behaviours in order to maintain a place of safety.

Generally speaking, when it comes to keeping ourselves safe, there are a multitude of actions we can take. As stated in the video pertaining to the concept of going back to schools during the pandemic, it would be best to adhere to certain behavioural tendencies when interacting with other persons during the outbreak. It is important that we wear our masks, and carry a spare if anything should happen to the primary mask. Carrying hand sanitizer in as well would suffice in terms of being safe during this pandemic. Maintaining six feet from other people and keeping up with the social distancing is also important to keep everyone safe. For activities that may require the idea of sharing items, it would best be thought for other people to bring their own objects that are relevant to the activity as to refrain from having multiple people touch one thing and spread germs. Just as the day has concluded, those who have departed from their residence and have returned home should wash their hands and face, and immediately take off, and wash the clothes that they had worn while spending time outdoors. This precautionary routine should be considered part of the behaviour people should maintain to keep safe during this pandemic. These should be ESPECIALLY true in regards to students that attend school physically, seeing as the district allows it.

Furthermore, on this subject of keeping safe during the pandemic, the access of vaccines and the distribution of the vaccines are in regards to the limitations and the capabilities of the government. This means that the distribution of the vaccine can only be done once the testing of the vaccines have concluded and the government is able to create and supply enough vaccines for the general public after they have distributed them to their priority figures. Until the time of the general public being allowed their vaccines, it is important that, in order to keep ourselves, and the community safe, in Wellington, we adhere to the routinely behaviour mentioned in the piece preceding this paragraph in order to do just that.

In conclusion, we all play a part as a whole of a community. Everything we do, from the minute that we wake, to the moment that we return home and lay to rest, has an effect because of the situation we currently reside in. This pandemic is a severe catastrophe that needs to be treated responsibly in order to soothe the returning of our former lives once this is resolved. Which is why, in order to keep ourselves, and the community safe, in Wellington, we need to keep up with certain behaviours in order to maintain a place of safety.

Citations: <https://youtu.be/uH1oGgNaA3Q>
<https://discover.pbcgov.org/coronavirus/Pages/vaccine.aspx>

“How to stay safe from COVID-19 in the Village of Wellington 101”

Covid-19 is a serious issue the world is facing right now: stores, restaurants, and public spaces are being closed off or separated for the safety of the workers, customers, and visitors. Safety is the #1 priority right now for those who care or manage others that can't risk being sick. Places with a large number of people at once, like schools, have only one main concern at this time, and it's the safety of the administration, the teachers, and most importantly, the students. The students are separated from each other and are required to wear a mask all throughout the day while at school, and the custodians are working 10x harder to make sure everything is clean and safe to use. To keep safe, there are many recommendations that can be adopted into the city of Wellington to help keep everyone safe and healthy.

To begin, it's always best to wear a mask at all times when you are interacting or in the same area as other people. Wearing a mask prevents germs from one's mouth area getting onto someone else, possibly causing that person to get sick. We can't always trust someone's word, saying that they're not sick, when we don't know where that person has been or the people they've been around. Another thing that should be your main priority is washing hands. Washing your hands for 30 seconds or putting on hand sanitizer after interacting with someone or touching things that you don't know who has touched. Those two things are the most important to help everyone stay safe and healthy at this difficult time. There are also many other ways to keep clean, like wiping down items that have been touched, or social distancing by standing six feet away from everyone around you. Making these into everyday customs will keep everyone safe and will help everything slowly start getting back to normal.

Safety in general should be everyone's main priority right now during this worldwide pandemic. The city of Wellington needs to help people get through these difficult times by supporting each other, offering help or supplies to others who may unfortunately not be able to help keep themselves safe, and keeping public places socially distanced and making sure the workers are keeping clean. To finish, the main mission is to help end this in the best and fastest possible way, because the city of Wellington, and every other city in the world wants to help end this pandemic.

Technology. It motivates us, enables us to create, and above all, it helps us communicate and learn. However, since COVID- 19 has impacted the world, the rate of internet usage has gone up continuously. As the patterns have shown, the most common users of technology are students and young adults in the community. This has opened up a world of internet dangers such as online predators. Which leads to our question; What can Wellington do to prevent the dangers of the internet?

Since the creation of technology, many young people have been able to connect with each other online through social media platforms such as Tik Tok, Instagram and Snapchat, where the audience consists mostly of minors. This leaves a large gap for predators to have an influence on these young users. A study done by Child Crime Prevention & Safety Center stated that “There are an estimated 500,000 online predators active each day.” The FBI takes it a step further and shows us that “An estimated 89 percent of sexual advances directed at children occur in Internet chatrooms or through instant messaging” in which all of the apps I previously mentioned have this feature.

Which leads to our solutions. Today we see very little involvement in the community to prevent the dangers of the internet. To most, it's online so therefore it “doesn't exist”....but it absolutely does. A majority of online safety education comes from public schools and government services but what these programs have not emphasized enough, is the ability to connect with the most common demographic. Young adults. A way that Wellington can get involved is by providing free safety workshops sponsored by non-profits, require internet safety presentations in public schools in the area, and bring in survivors to talk to these young adults.

Lady Gaga once said, “You don't know how it feels until it happens to you”. This quote perfectly explains the importance of this matter. No one should ever have to go through something like this. Our children shouldn't have to worry for their safety. We have to continue to reach out and create a community for the children of our tomorrow. No matter what it takes.

Sources

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Traffic safety can depend on many things including your age and skill level. For example, Some people don't feel comfortable driving at high speeds on the highway and drive very slow. When drivers go much slower than everyone else on the highway, it can actually cause an accident.

Additionally, I think there should be an age limit for older drivers just like there is for younger drivers. Some older drivers don't see as well and don't react as fast and could cause an accident. There should be a driving and eye exam they have to take after a certain age in order to get their driver's license renewed. After a certain age, they should not be allowed to drive themselves for their own safety and the safety of everyone else on the road.

Finally, I think all roads should have bike lanes. It is very dangerous when a person on a bike rides on the side of the road. It only takes one second for a driver to take their eyes off the road and hit someone on a bike, especially if they are driving too close and can't move over. Flashing stop signs are also a good idea because they really get your attention so you can stop. All cars should also have lights that automatically come on during the day. Having cars that have daytime running lights or fog lights help make it easier for your car to be seen during the day when it is not so clear out. All cars should be inspected every couple of years to make sure they are safe on the road.

In conclusion, one of the best ways to stay safe on the road is to put your phone away so you don't get distracted. Even if you take your eyes off the road for one second, it could cause an accident. If you have to look at a text or make a call, do it when you either come to a stop or pull over if you can.

Citations:

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