We are living through a historic moment in time and the Ringwood Public Library wants to capture, document, and preserve your stories and memories about life during the COVID-19 Pandemic. History is normally associated with the past but we are making and living history right now! Longtime Ringwood businesses are shutting their doors for the first time; schools have closed and signature community events have been cancelled. We have also witnessed remarkable instances of connection, creativity, and solidarity as we strive to keep our Ringwood community together. Storytelling and archival documentation can be empowering sources of hope and healing during our most painful times. We are living through a historic moment; information collected now will become crucial to the archives in the future. Your contributions will help build a resource of primary documentation so future generations can understand the history we are now living.

The Ringwood Public Library seeks to share and preserve your stories documenting life in Ringwood during the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19: Ringwood Borough Community Archives aims to be a gathering point for community narratives, images, records, art, and other forms of response to the impacts of COVID-19. How is this affecting your life, family, or business? What feelings are you experiencing? Have you noticed any new changes, strategies, or realizations? Upload your experiences to this project and be a part of history.

Ways to share your story:

- Write: Keep a Journal,* write letters, create poetry, write observations.
  *Visit the Ringwood Manor Facebook Page for their “Primary Source Prompt Activity” for reflective journaling prompts.
- Create Art: Draw or paint
- Start a video blog or speak into a recorder
- Take photographs or video of your environment/community/life in quarantine
- Upload records from your business that document how it responded to the crisis (social media graphics, e-mail or mail correspondence, business announcements, etc.)
- Save your social media posts

We will be collecting stories throughout the duration of the crisis. If you have paper materials you wish to donate, you can scan them and send digital copies now, then bring the originals to the Ringwood Public Library when we reopen. If there are updates to the project’s criteria, they will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

Have a larger collection of materials you wish to donate, materials with sensitive information, or any other questions about donations? Email me at ringwoodpl@ringwoodlibrary.org

In gathering your thoughts and stories, please adhere to all issued safety precautions, such as social distancing, to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

Thank you,
Wendy Sandford, MLS
Supervising Librarian
ringwoodpl@ringwoodlibrary.org

First picture to be donated