

Dear Quogue Residents,

Governor Cuomo's press conference on Monday brought some new information sources and terminology to the fight against the coronavirus. First, there is a handy dashboard that shows in tabular form the various criteria that must be met for a region to reach phase one (of four) of the staged reopening plan. Three regions meet all of the criteria and can begin to reopen on May 15 (Friday). Long Island meets five of seven criteria (up from two of seven last week) and so may not. Also, "New York Pause" seems to be on its way out, to be replaced by "New York Forward." The latter is described in a new 51-page booklet that describes the process. Don't be dissuaded from reading it. There are quite a few pictures. Both the dashboard and the booklet can be found by clicking on the appropriate link on the following page: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/amid-ongoing-covid-19-pandemic-governor-cuomo-announces-three-regions-new-york-state-ready>. Also a fresh New York Forward website has been introduced: <https://forward.ny.gov/>.

Meanwhile, even in our area there appears to be some loosening forthcoming later this week in the Essential Business arena, although we have not seen much in writing yet. The Governor suggested that landscapers would be allowed to do planting and that tennis would become a permitted recreational activity, possibly along with some other outdoor sports. You will also be able to go to a drive-in movie, but unfortunately that will necessitate about a three-hour drive to Warwick, NY. Hopefully, the written guidance will expand on these categories.

A recent theft of an expensive automobile from a driveway in Quogue reminds us why many of us have garages. At the very least, do not leave your key fob in the automobile. Fortunately, the stolen car was recovered in NJ.

Even more recently, one of our police officers spotted a suspicious vehicle lurking on one of our less-travelled streets. Pulling over the car, the officer found a group of individuals who had rap sheets matching the profiles of likely car thieves. While they could not be arrested and held, they were charged with relatively minor offenses and their identities and whereabouts have been recorded and transmitted to all relevant law enforcement agencies.

Another example of the value of our fine police force occurred last week when officers responded to a 911 call and revived a man using CPR. (This case did not involve Covid-19.)

Throughout the pandemic, the work of the police department and all of our employees has been exemplary. Chris Osborne has basically been working out of his truck with his computer on Code Enforcement matters so that we can maintain appropriate distancing in the office. Bill Nowak and Tom Snodgrass continue to process applications and do inspections for the limited building that is still going on. The Highway Department, despite working in split shifts, has cleaned debris from the beach, completed the spring leaf pickup, and accomplished numerous other projects throughout the spring. The Village Office staff has rotated days in the office with working at home and, along with the administrative assistant for the police department, done its usual fine job interfacing with residents. Finally, our volunteer fire department has managed effective responses to fire calls and very dangerous carbon monoxide alarm calls while modifying its usual procedures to reduce the chances of exposure of its members to the coronavirus. Our great thanks go out to all these individuals.

We will be sending out our plans for the Village Beach later in the week.

Stay safe, everyone.

Peter Sartorius, Mayor