

Dear Quogue Residents,

1. The aftermath of Tropical Storm Isaias has now largely disappeared in Quogue. The storm struck on Tuesday afternoon and by Thursday afternoon nearly everyone who lost power in Quogue (which was limited to a few streets) had it restored. The large tree on Quogue Street was cleared on Thursday afternoon and the one on Lamb Avenue overnight. Both trees involved power lines and required PSE&G tree crews to clear them. The Quogue Highway Department made quick work of the trees after that occurred. Overall, we fared a lot better than a lot of locations in Long Island and elsewhere, and I must say that the PSE&G people with whom I spoke did their best to be helpful and, I believe, did deliver despite being hampered by communications issues, which everyone blamed on Verizon. Governor Cuomo blamed PSE&G for not being ready for the storm, called for an investigation and threatened its “franchise” as operator for LIPA without specifying the alternative. If all that sounds familiar, it should. Back in 2012/2013 following Superstorm Sandy, there were similar complaints about LIPA that eventually led in 2014 to a long-term agreement for PSE&G to operate LIPA.
2. There is nothing like a couple of days of hot weather without electricity to make people think about installing a generator. Please keep in mind that a permanently installed residential generator requires a permit from the Village Building Department. The location of the generator and fuel tank will have to meet setback requirements for accessory structures and be above the required flood elevation if your house is in a flood zone. Your installer will have to get it inspected by a certified electrical inspector on the Village’s approved list and by the Building Department. Occasionally, people use small, portable generators to provide emergency power to appliances. If you do that, make sure they are outside in a well-ventilated area. Having one in the garage or a basement can kill you via carbon monoxide poisoning. Following the manufacturer’s operating instructions for portable generators is vital to your safety.
3. After a storm is a good time to think about your carbon monoxide detectors. Every year the Quogue Fire Department gets a number of calls generated by carbon monoxide alarms. Some of these have been near-death experiences for residents. Carbon monoxide poisoning caused by gas appliances is a major health hazard. You should have a detector on each floor of your house. If you hear the alarm, get out of the house immediately and call 911. If you get a low battery signal, replace the batteries; never simply remove them.
4. On August 7 Governor Cuomo, touting his administration’s school guidance and economic reopening guidance as the smartest in the country, announced that schools across the state are permitted to open. The determination of how schools open, in-person vs. a hybrid model, is to be made on a local level. Based on the most current data and guidance from the NYS Department of Education and the NYS Department of Health, the Quogue School is planning to welcome 140 students in grades pre-kindergarten through 6th grade for in-school, in-person learning on Wednesday, September 9th. That is 55 students more than last year, a 65% increase! Sounds like Quogue will be a little busier this “off-season.” While it is important to note that trends in public health data during the course of the school year may necessitate changes to the Quogue School District’s current plan, Superintendent Jeff Ryvicker reports that he and his staff could not be more excited about having the school filled with children once again. The full 60-page reopening plan (with a shorter Executive Summary for those of you who think of themselves as executives) can be found at <https://www.quogueschool.com/domain/89>. By the way, contrary to one erroneous press report that was related to me, the Quogue School District’s reopening plan **was not** filed late.
5. Those of you have been fans of Governor Cuomo’s daily press briefings will be pleased that he has gained another platform by being elected (unanimously, according to his press release) Chairman of the National Governors Association.

Peter Sartorius  
Mayor