

Dear Quogue Residents,

1. Unless you have made a conscious and successful effort to block out the outside world, you are aware that there exists a controversy over the availability of mail-in voting for the November election and the ability of the US Post Office to handle the related mail in a timely way. The situation in New York State remains up in the air. According to our Assemblyman, Fred Thiele, Governor Cuomo has on his desk a bill requiring action by this Friday that would effectively allow any New Yorker to vote by mail. It would do so by broadening the definition of "temporary illness" - one of the acceptable excuses for absentee voting under New York law -- to include the risk of spreading or contracting an illness like Covid-19. The Governor took similar action by executive order for the June primary. Watch for news on this front. Other non-traditional ways to vote will include early voting between October 24 and November 1 at any of the sites in Suffolk County set up for the purpose. The closest one to Quogue will be at the Southampton campus of Stony Brook University.
2. If you wish to register to vote in Quogue or change your registration to Quogue from somewhere else, all you have to do is complete a New York State Voter Registration Form and return it by mail or in person to the Suffolk County Board of Elections. The form and instructions are available at <https://suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/BOE>. That can be done as late as October 9, 2020 for the November 3 election, but I would not wait that long, particularly if you plan on requesting an absentee ballot, which will have to be requested by submission of an application, mailed to you and then returned by you.
3. On-again, off-again Delaware is back on the quarantine list. So's Alaska. The full list of 35 jurisdictions (currently) is at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>.
4. Just in time for the end of August, you can now plan an outing to go bowling. At The All Star in Riverhead, you will need to make a reservation for a lane at <https://theallstar.com/>.
5. On Monday, gyms were authorized by the Governor to open as early as August 24th, but there are definitely some hurdles, and so you should check with your facility before just showing up.
6. My non-scientific observations about mask wearing in Quogue indicate that laxity is setting in among the younger set. Parents, please stress to your kids that masks are important to their well-being, and that they do not work when worn under the chin.
7. On Monday the Governor issued his guidance on his New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Executive Order that he issued on June 12. I wrote about the Executive Order earlier in the summer. The guidance is 135 pages long, and we have posted it on the Village website at <http://www.villageofquogueny.gov/polAnnouncements.cfm>. You are welcome to submit comments and observations to contact@villageofquogueny.gov.
8. The Highway Department cleaned the right of way after Tropical Storm Isaias. If you have branches or brush in front of your house, it is because we believe you placed it there from debris in your yard. The Village did not pick up yard debris in this storm, and it is the homeowner's responsibility to have it removed.
9. Yaira Rodriguez, who has run the US Post Office in Quogue for the past 21½ years, has accepted a similar position in Holtsville, which is much closer to her home, although she believes she will remain here until her replacement is on board. Please take a moment to wish her well if you get a chance. There is no question that Yaira has worked very hard for us during her tenure here, particularly in this pandemic year of 2020. We thank her very much and wish her the very best in her new position.

Peter Sartorius
Mayor