

Dear Quogue Residents,

1. It looks like the spike in positive tests for Covid-19 in Suffolk County that I referred to last week might have been an aberration. The positivity rate in Long Island has been back around 1% or a little lower over the past few days. Local hospitals only have a few Covid-19 hospitalizations as of yesterday, none of whom were in an ICU. Good news.
2. By my observations, people in Quogue have been pretty darn good about wearing masks. Nevertheless, I want to share with you something a friend and Quogue resident sent to me. Maybe you can share it with your kids or someone else you know who could use a pep talk on the importance of mask wearing:

When I wear a mask in public, or decline an invitation to a party or to come inside, I want you to know that:

I am educated enough to know that I could be asymptomatic and still give you the virus.

No, I don't 'live in fear' of the virus; I just want to be part of the solution, not the problem.

I don't feel like the 'government is controlling me;' I feel like I'm being a contributing adult to society and I want to teach others the same.

The world doesn't revolve around me. It's not all about me and my comfort.

If we could all live with other people's consideration in mind, this whole world would be a much better place.

Wearing a mask doesn't make me weak, scared, stupid, or even 'controlled.' It makes me considerate.

"When you think about how you look, how uncomfortable it is, or what others think of you, just imagine someone close to you - a child, a father, a mother, grandparent, aunt, or uncle - choking on a respirator, alone without you or any family member allowed at bedside. Ask yourself if you could have sucked it up. Was it worth the risk?"

3. Earlier this month Congressman Zeldin's office issued a press release (<https://zeldin.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/major-milestone-reached-fire-island-montauk-point-fimp-project>) announcing that a major milestone had been reached for the Fire Island to Montauk Point (FIMP) project by the signing of the Report of the Chief of Engineers of the Army Corp of Engineers. The entire Report can be found at: <https://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Projects-in-New-York/Fire-Island-to-Montauk-Point/>. Although there are many elements of FIMP, the principal ones affecting Quogue are the periodic dredging to bypass sand around the jetties at Shinnecock Inlet and nourishment of the beach in East Quogue and into the eastern part of Quogue. I believe that I have convinced the Army Corps of Engineers that the beach conditions around the Village Beach require attention and will be included in the project. Some public access parking at the Village Beach to be agreed upon with the Town of Southampton will be required to be added.

The report is now final, but more action is still needed. Most immediately, some additional funding is being sought for ongoing maintenance after the original construction. This is to be contained in a bill in Congress known as the Water Redevelopment Act (WRDA) expected by Mr. Zeldin to be enacted in the next few weeks. Next steps after that will include negotiation of project participation agreements among the Army Corps of Engineers and the State

of New York, Suffolk County and the five east end towns involved and acquisition of easements covering the beach area where work will be done. Villages are not directly involved. I do not know exactly how long this all will take, but believe that it is safe to say that there will not be any dredging and nourishment next winter.

4. Suffolk County Water Authority, which supplies our household water, is experiencing high demand, and of course it has not rained a lot lately. The Village received the following message from SCWA to forward to residents. Please take steps to comply for the benefit of all of us. Your grass will be fine in the long run.

“A prolonged period of hot and dry weather is currently underway and the Suffolk County Water Authority is experiencing unprecedented demand for water. I am asking all village residents to help by immediately changing the settings on your irrigation controllers so they water every other day, not every day. I also ask that you adjust watering times so that your systems do not operate during the 3 a.m. to 7 a.m. hours. Also, please consider purchasing a rain sensor for your system so you are not watering when it’s not necessary to do so.

“With your help we will preserve our precious drinking water resources and ensure there is plenty of water to address emergencies.”

Peter Sartorius
Mayor