

Dear Quogue Residents,

1. Anyone who has kept up at all with current issues over the past few years recognizes that poor water quality in local bays, mainly caused by nitrogen loading from septic systems and cesspools, is a serious problem. There are multiple initiatives underway to address it. One current one is a study by Dewberry, an engineering consulting firm engaged by New York State, to find ways to improve the water quality in western Shinnecock Bay. That basically covers the area from Shinnecock Inlet west through Quantuck Bay and a bit beyond. Dewberry looked at 15 options, some involving dredging and others involving water exchange in one manner or another between the Atlantic Ocean and the bay to improve flushing. Using modeling techniques, Dewberry narrowed 15 options down to three warranting further study. One involves a buried pipe under Dune Road in the vicinity of Triton Lane (east of Quogue) creating a one-way flow from the ocean into the bay. Two others involve actual cuts east of Quogue in the barrier island, one seasonal and one permanent. Buried pipe alternatives nearer to or in Quantuck Bay appeared to be effective but faltered because of the high level of developed private property in the vicinity. The Pre-Screening Study Summary written by Dewberry is posted on the Announcements page of the Village website and can be accessed here: <http://www.villageofquogueny.gov/polAnnouncements.cfm>.
2. Underscoring the message from Suffolk County Water Authority that I published last week, Governor Cuomo this week put Long Island and some other areas of the State on a drought watch. A "watch" is the first of four levels of state drought advisories ("watch," "warning," "emergency," and "disaster"). There are no statewide mandatory water use restrictions in place under a drought watch or warning, but citizens are strongly encouraged to voluntarily conserve water. Local public water suppliers may impose water use restrictions depending upon local needs and conditions.
3. My fisherman friends tell me that there has been a proliferation of dead fish of the non-edible variety on the beach and suspect that it may be because some newer fisherman do not properly exercise catch and release techniques. If a hook is caught in the fish's mouth or swallowed to such a degree that it cannot be extricated cleanly, avoid pulling it out and ripping flesh. Instead, cut the line and allow the hook to rust out.
4. Governor Cuomo's Executive Order pertaining to travel now has expanded further and lists the following states and territories as meeting the criteria for requiring a 14-day self-quarantine for people traveling to New York from them, including returning New Yorkers:
 - Alabama
 - Alaska
 - Arizona
 - Arkansas
 - California
 - Delaware
 - District of Columbia
 - Florida
 - Georgia
 - Idaho
 - Illinois
 - Indiana
 - Iowa

- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maryland
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Mexico
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Puerto Rico
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Virginia
- Washington
- Wisconsin

The infection rate in our area remains relatively low. To maintain that status, it is important that people coming in abide by these restrictions. There are some exceptions for essential workers and for people passing through. You might want to check them out at https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIrPrsu7w6gIV0QiICR36gA4nEAAAYASAAEgJVUPD_BwE

Peter Sartorius
Mayor