

Dear Quogue Residents,

We're fast approaching what used to be the unofficial end of summer and the beginning of campaigning in earnest for the November election. This year Labor Day won't be quite what it was in the past, however. Many of you will still be here next Tuesday to enjoy the Fall and, maybe less so, the winter, and I think that all will agree that the political campaigns are already well underway. Here are a few local things you might want to know in this unusual year:

1. Happening on Tuesday, September 15 (but not adding much noise to the political chatter) is the long-delayed Village election. While the elections for Mayor and two Trustees are uncontested by names on the ballot, Mr. and Ms. Write-in (no relation) are still viable (a write-in victory has happened in Quogue), and so please do not let voter apathy get the best of you. The polling place will be the Quogue Fire House from 12:00 Noon until 9:00 pm. I doubt you will have to stand in line for long, but if you need or want an absentee ballot to avoid possible exposure to Covid-19 or for another reason, you can get one. The application is on the Village website: http://www.villageofquogueny.gov/Village_Elections.cfm. You can print it off the website and fill it in, but all the other steps have to be in person or by mail, and so there is no time to waste.
2. The Village Beach will be open from now through Labor Day. For the next two weeks after that, there will be no lifeguards during the week, but the Beach will be fully staffed on the weekends. **All lockers must have their locks removed and be fully emptied by Sunday, September 20. As provided in the locker application, people who fail to comply will be subject to a fine and contents will be discarded.**
3. Some of you noticed that there were a couple of heavy machines doing beach scraping at the end of last week and on Monday, August 31. Sorry about the lack of prior notice, but because of Isaias it was not clear that we could meet the necessary criteria in our permit. Just before and as we did the work, the beach built, and we requested an expansion of the area and a brief extension of the time past August 31, the deadline in the permit to complete the work. We had to take a break on Tuesday, but we received an approval late in the day to proceed and will be doing so.
4. The 2020 Census is still ongoing, but we have not seen evidence in Quogue of the usual door knockers. There will be a Census bus parked on Jessup Avenue on September 24, which was arranged by the Quogue Library. Help will be available then, but completing the Census form online is very easy and you can find it at https://2020census.gov/?cid=20002:%2Bcensus:sem.ga:p:dm:en:&utm_source=sem.ga&utm_medium=p&utm_campaign=dm:en&utm_content=20002&utm_term=%2Bcensus. Wherever your principal residence is, please make sure you are counted.
5. Occasionally, people have received notices late from the Village because they are using a winter address in our tax roll, and their mail goes there and then has to be forwarded. To help avoid this problem, you may want to add your Quogue PO Box as a second address. To do so, write or email the Village Office (contact@villageofquogueny.gov). Promise not to call us in the future to say you got double billed for your taxes, however.
6. From my office windows, I get a good view of the Quogue Liquor Store and the Quogue Market, and I can say with assurance that the number of illegal U-turns I have witnessed this summer on Jessup Avenue is well into double digits. It does not matter whether you do a U-turn in a single pass, execute it by using the more usual 3-6 point turn, while travelling south, cross the double line to park in front of a store, or, having parked in front of a store, do a reverse, multistep turn to head directly back toward Quogue Street travelling for the first 50 feet or so in the wrong lane. They are all illegal. Please go around the block and be forewarned about police enforcement if you don't. And by the way, Village Lane is one way, as clearly marked. If you are turning onto Jessup Avenue from Village Lane, you violated the law even if you went only a few feet from a parking space.
7. On a lighter note and a good one for families with young kids, corn mazes, hay rides, apple picking and other "agritourism" businesses are coming soon, having been permitted to open per a press release on Tuesday by Governor Cuomo.

I hope everyone enjoys the best weather of the year this month.

Peter Sartorius
Mayor