

Dear Quogue Residents,

A question for you: what do kids do better than their parents and grandparents? My answer is below.

In a conference call on Thursday evening, Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone reported sharply rising coronavirus statistics: over 1,100 new cases on December 2, a positivity rate of 6%, 310 Covid-19 hospitalizations (a more than six-fold increase from November 1) moving toward a predicted 1,000 around Christmas. (There were around 1,600 last spring.) Case investigators in Suffolk County report that most cases trace back to small private gatherings where people presumably let their guards down among friends and family. Reported cumulative Quogue cases are at 26, up one from the previous week, but the threats are real and all around us. Please act accordingly and definitely send a regret for that invitation to the White House holiday party.

Best Market is closed in Westhampton Beach, eventually to become a Lidl store (which you can read about at <https://www.lidl.com/about-us>), big stores can be crowded, FedEx and UPS are imposing shipping limits on big on-line retailers and the Post Office may involve yellow cards and standing in lines. All the more reason to get gourmet-to-go meals and your other food needs at the Quogue Market and shop for the holidays at our local stores. Parking is plentiful and always free as long as you don't try a U-turn on Jessup Avenue. While you are at it, take a glance at the Village Green, which the Quogue Highway Department cleaned up beautifully on Thursday.

While people are staying inside more nowadays, they must be having an urge to clean their houses because various items of junk and semi-junk have been appearing on the side of the road. The Village does not take items of that sort (nor, apparently, do passersby), and placing them on the side of the road is a violation of our Code. The Town of Southampton provides various options for disposal. See <http://www.southamptontownny.gov/216/Waste-Management>. For people who have a big urge to clean out during the pandemic, having a dumpster delivered from one of the local trash haulers, filling it up and having it removed can be an uplifting experience and a magnet to get to know your neighbors.

The answer: it could be a lot of things, ranging from picking your body up off the floor to anything involving a screen. But what I had in mind was observing covid-19 precautions. The schools (and particularly the Quogue School) have been a bright spot, with very low infection rates. Apparently, kids are much better than adults at keeping their masks on, maintaining a social distance and washing their hands. Kudos to them and to their teachers and school administrators.

Have a good weekend and week.

Peter Sartorius
Mayor