

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Tenth Update

Friday, March 20, 2020

Dear Guilderland residents:

At its daily briefing, the Albany County Department of Health (DOH) reported that there are 70 confirmed cases, with six hospitalized and the rest are recovering at home. There are now 283 persons in mandatory quarantine and 493 persons in precautionary quarantine. County DOH warned that hospitals were running low on testing kits.

Please note that, while Town buildings remain closed to the public, and most employees are now at home, the Town is delivering important services including all emergency services with no changes in staff, fire and building inspections for approved projects, and maintaining parks, open space, and trails for public use with social distancing (six feet apart). Except for emergency services, the other departments' services are performed with greatly reduced staff.

As announced yesterday, the Town is operating under a State of Emergency to protect public safety and property, and enforce the State's policy, as announced in the Governor's Executive Orders, to enable local government to perform functions, including public meetings, by means that protect public health and allow consideration of important matters. The Town will also adhere to the Governor's Order which prohibits nonessential gatherings of any size for any purpose. The Town has invested in software improvements to allow for the public's participation by telephone. The Town will also use public notices, with call-in instructions, that were recommended by the State and satisfy the Executive Order's requirements.

A quick reminder that the Thruway's scheduled total removal and replacement of the East Old State Road bridge over the Thruway will start on Monday, March 23rd. Given current traffic conditions, there will be far fewer than the usual 5300 daily motorists, but keep this bridge closure in mind and follow the posted signage and detours. The bridge will be closed for approximately seven months. If you are looking for something to pass time, you can read the [bridge's inspection report](#) and [detour analysis](#) on the Town's website.

If you are looking for a *War & Peace* equivalent length, you can try the [New York Power Authority – Wendell Lighting's 90% Design Report](#) (987 pages) about the Town's and neighboring municipalities' plans to acquire National Grid's 631 lights, convert them to LED, and select among 13 luminaire styles and 12 lamp types and wattage. Don't worry; no comprehension test is required under current conditions.

Thank you again for staying calm, and please try to enjoy some "social distancing" time outdoors. Over the weekend, we will continue providing you with timely updates.

Sincerely,

Peter G. Barber
Town Supervisor