

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Twelfth Update
Sunday, March 22, 2020

Dear Guilderland residents:

The Albany County Department of Health (DOH) reported that there are that there are now 115 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in Albany County, with six persons hospitalized. There are now 318 people under mandatory quarantine and 634 people under precautionary quarantine.

Here's the promised final warning that tomorrow, the East Old State Road Bridge over the Thruway will be closed to all traffic for approximately seven months as the Thruway does a complete removal and replacement of the bridge.

On this Sunday, I'd like to express my gratitude to persons and groups who have helped our community in responding to this health emergency. I know that there are hundreds, if not thousands, to acknowledge and thank, but I would like to begin with those who have directly helped our residents.

I start with the Town's first responders, Dispatch, EMS, Police, and Fire, who answer calls for assistance without hesitation. In this time of acute uncertainty, it is comforting to know that our community is served by a team of dedicated professionals who are ready and willing to help when called upon.

I extend sincere appreciation to Albany County Executive Daniel P. McCoy and Health Commissioner Elizabeth Whalen who, beginning with that first 5:00am call to me nearly two weeks ago about the first case of COVID-19 in our Town and their subsequent daily updates and phone conferences, have enabled the Town to keep you timely informed and, with the County's support, enabled the Town to deploy its resources to ensure public safety and protect property.

I also thank my secretary Jessica Montgomery, public relations officer Linda Cure, and Deputy Police Chief Curtis Cox for their indispensable roles in keeping residents updated about rapidly changing conditions with frequent emails, Nixle notices, and social media posts. The timely and accurate information allows the community to make informed decisions.

I extend gratitude to our local businesses and their employees who, while severely impacted by circumstances beyond their control, and despite personal risks, like cash register operators, shelf stockers, truck drivers, cleaning help and other service worker, are showing up and providing essential services to our community. Without their help and services, we could not keep going.

Please take the time to thank these special people and others who you know have helped us through this crisis. There are literally thousands, from postal workers to nurses, highway workers to building and fire inspectors, and many others, who would appreciate a kind word or sign of gratitude.

I also thank you, my fellow residents, for staying calm, remaining safe, and for your kind words of support for the Town's efforts in responding to this unprecedented health emergency. Your

adherence to health guidelines and social distancing has allowed first responders to devote their efforts and precious resources to emergencies. I appreciate your understanding that this disruption of daily life often requires the setting aside of personal needs and allows for a collective community fight against this virus.

I also thank residents who have generously contributed to the Guilderland Food Pantry in its mission to address food insecurity in our community. This health emergency is increasing the demand for its services. Please contact the Pantry for information about its current needs at (518) 930-1001 or email: guildfoodpantry79@gmail.com. The Pantry can now accept monetary donations online at: <https://guilderlandfoodpantry.ccbchurch.com/goto/giving>.

I also thank Governor Cuomo for his leadership during these very difficult days, and his Executive Orders that are intended to ensure public safety and protect property. Among the Orders was a list of “essential services” that could remain open, including beverage stores. While many see its obvious benefits, and its support for local businesses, I suggest an alternative option. Adhere gladly to this rare government directive by buying wine and liquors at your local beverage store and use them in special recipes like Coq au Vin, Chicken Cacciatore, Duck a L’Orange, Chicken Marsala or the classic recipe for Boeuf Bourguignon in *Larousse Gastronomique* which calls for adding “a small glass of brandy and set alight.” Some unsolicited advice: consider buying a top-shelf brandy; we are lazy and keep using leftover holiday brandy that never lights.

Thank you again for remaining safe and calm.

Sincerely,

Peter G. Barber
Town Supervisor