Dear Neighbors and Friends,

This is our next COVID-19 update installment. (Click here for our previous emails).

Happy <u>SAFE</u> 4th of July to All.

MASKS AND DISTANCING:

So here's the deal. **WEARING A MASK** now is as important as ever!!! So continue to wear one - NO excuses. If you don't agree, just look at the numbers around the country where Covid is running rampant. Here's some perspective - at NY's peak in the spring the country was averaging 30,000-35,000 new cases per day. Yesterday the U.S. set a new daily high - 57,000 new cases!! **WEAR A MASK!!** Our Town has continued to be well below the county average in cases per population, mainly because you all Modeled Good Behavior, as only 10 new cases have been reported in Town since May 26! But this is so far from over, so continue to **WEAR A MASK!**

If you need more convincing, think of the front line workers, the small business owners, and those immunocompromised. This isn't about you, it's about all of them. What's our sacrifice - we have to wear a mask and clean our hands. What's there sacrifice - their livelihood, their health, and in 132,000 cases so far, their life. Business owners have told me flat out, if we have a recurrence in our area, that's the end of the road for them. Just keep a MASK with you at all times, and keep an extra in your glove compartment, briefcase, knapsack, handbag, etc.

Let's review this again, we have to wear a mask, keep our hands clean, and make sure we distance - wow, what a sacrifice (hopefully you can hear my sarcasm). And their sacrifice, their business and their life.

WEAR A MASK!!! AND DISTANCE!!!

ENFORCEMENT OF GOOD BEHAVIOR: Let met talk a minute about this, as some people are inquiring and seem frustrated. Our Police are working in accordance with all other Westchester municipal police departments by utilizing "voluntary compliance", thus when they observe a lack of compliance in a <u>public space</u>, they move to correct and their actions are well-received. We're not out there to charge everybody for violating the executive order, we're out there to serve our community, keep our community safe, and often it's simply just educating people. County Executive George Latimer has stated clearly that he doesn't think heavy handed enforcement needs to be called for yet, but he stated that "If we see by the end of this weekend that we need to change our direction of enforcement,

we'll have that discussion, we'll make that decision," and we agree with the County Executive. However, if you observe a situation on private property that you believe warrants attention, your path is to call our PD and report your concern. Please also keep in mind that we only have 32 uniformed women and men on our force, and they obviously don't all work simultaneously, so they are doing the very best they can at all times.

HOTSPOT STATES: Here's the list folks. This shouldn't come down to neighbors or friends having to report you. If you go to one of these states, be prepared to quarantine for 2 weeks. If you can't quarantine, then don't visit those states, it's that simple!! Here are the states: California, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, Tennessee, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Arizona, Alabama, Arkansas, and Utah.

RE-OPENING WESTCHESTER COUNTY - PHASE III & IV

We are in Phase III now and Phase IV starts on Tuesday. Phase III added things like indoor dining at 50% capacity, personal care businesses, low-risk sports, gatherings of 25, etc. Phase IV includes higher education, low-risk indoor and outdoor entertainment, media production, and pro sports without fans, etc. Our local food establishments have been working hard to stay afloat, using more sidewalk seating and their parking lots as per our new local law, so please continue to support them. Click here for NYS info on all Phases. At that website, just click on the "Business Reopening" tab and pick the Phase you want.

TOWN POOL AND CONCERTS IN THE PARK: (Click here for the Parks and Rec website.) Yes, the pool is open! Our Parks and Rec department led by Todd Orlowski and Jen Giusti have done an absolutely incredible job of understanding the ever-changing Covid guidelines and executing them. They prepared the pool and conducted standard annual maintenance regardless. However, when the Governor rolled out the guidelines, we reacted quickly so we were one of the first if not the first municipal County pool to open. Pool passes are easy (on-line), bring your own chairs, wear your mask, partitions exist when you enter, the staff disinfects common surfaces regularly, etc. and the staff marked the ENTIRE seating area for your chairs, to insure distancing.

Concerts in the Park start next Thursday at Wampus Brook Park (the Gazebo). Again, our parks department will be marking the grass so you can sit and enjoy safely. The band is Tramps Like Us, a Bruce Springsteen tribute band. Should be a great show. If you go, stay in your assigned area. If you see friends, as hard as it is, just say hi - no hugging or kissing. Sorry folks, but this is our new life until further notice.

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR TOWN INFO:

Personally, I do not use social media a lot and according to my kids I'm a dinosaur, but I know many of you do use it. So please follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Our Clerk's office does a great job of updated these often as it provides another means to receive Town info.

STATE SENATOR SHELLEY MAYER'S GARDEN CONTEST:

This summer's Garden Contest will showcase the beauty in our communities and the hard work of local gardeners. <u>Click here</u> for a flyer with the instructions and share with interested friends and neighbors.

CENSUS: We must continue to remind you. It's critical that North Castle does its part. If you have responded, thank you! If you haven't, do it right now! <u>Click here</u> to connect to our website. Everyone must be counted otherwise we risk forfeiting adequate representation in Congress, and

losing out on Federal dollars.

LITTERING MASKS AND GLOVES (and everything else that is littered!) This is appalling and continues to be a sore spot with me. I cannot get my head around the absolute disregard for others when someone does this. My hope is that our residents are not the culprits, but regardless, if we catch you, you will face up to a \$1000 fine and jail time. No joke. We have had some employees and some residents risk a lot by picking this type of litter up to keep us safer...thank you! As much as I want residents to chip in, please refrain from collecting litter. But if you do, just cover yourself from head to toe, use a "picker" of some sort, and when you get home, take your shoes off outside, jump in the shower, and wash everything you wore. Thanks!!

ONE FINAL THOUGHT:

Our Country has a lot on our plate right now, but we're up to the task. But when it comes to conflict and disagreements, please work extra hard to listen. It's so easy to listen to someone talk and go right to where you disagree, and shout over each other. It's much harder to actually listen; work to understand why they feel they way they do, and although you still may disagree and feel frustrated, you'll have a better understanding of not just how they feel, but why they feel that way, and they will of you. And you'll surprise each other on how much you agree on. Let's add some listening and decency to the conversations. Take the road less traveled.

AS ALWAYS, IF YOU NEED HELP, ASK: Let us know. Groceries, health issues, conversation, masks, just reach out. And many of you have, and we love hearing from you and we are happy to help.

Remember, **We Are Alone...Together.** Just call or text my cell (830-6061) or our Town Administrator Kevin Hay at 273-300 x191. If an **emergency** - **call our Police Dept (273-9500) or 911**. If you know of residents or neighbors that may still be lonely through all of this or may need something, please call them! And if you need food assistance, all municipalities are working with <u>Feeding Westchester</u> - just click the link or visit our <u>website</u> - it is very discreet.

Thanks for reading! "Keep the Pedal to the Metal" as Dr. Fauci prescribes, and be prepared to do so for a long time.

We and the Town Board thank you for your diligence and commitment to helping your neighbors and local businesses. We urge you to <u>Stay Safe</u>, <u>Be Smart</u>, <u>Mask-Up</u>, <u>Practice Distancing</u>, <u>and above all use Common</u> Sense. And continue to Be Decent and Civil to each other.

Sincerely,

Michael Schiliro - Supervisor Town of North Castle

STAY CONNECTED WITH OUR TOWN

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