



## VILLAGE OF SCARSDALE

### **Open Letter to Scarsdale Community**

*COVID-19 Update: May 06, 2020*

Dear Scarsdale Residents,

Gratitude has played such a central role in sustaining us during these long two months. There has never been a more appropriate time for the concurrence of the two national appreciation weeks and a national appreciation day:

- Teacher Appreciation Week;
- National Nurses Week; and
- Mother's Day this Sunday.

The impact our nurses, teachers, and mothers have on us as a society is incalculable, and I do not think we have ever had a greater admiration and respect for them than we do right now. Their sacrifices on a daily basis, while all vary in nature, display the same qualities of selflessness, compassion, strength, and love.

Please take several moments this week to express your gratitude to the teachers, nurses, and mothers in your life. Our demonstration of thanks and gratitude does go a long way to acknowledge our reverence for them. Thank you nurses, teachers, and moms!

### **Recreation**

Westchester County held its first 2020 Bicycle Sunday on the Bronx River Parkway last weekend and I am pleased to report that it was such a success that will be continued this Sunday, Mother's Day. Please remember to wear a mask to protect others. Enjoy some family time on the BRP this weekend – with or without Mom, if she can use a little time off!

The County has now successfully reopened four of its six golf courses. This coming weekend, the County plans to reopen its two remaining courses, Saxon Woods in Scarsdale and Maple Moor in White Plains. Importantly, the County has developed effective operating and enforcement protocols to allow play, subject to social distancing guidelines. Note that separation between players can be perceived inaccurately when viewed from afar. Thus, what may appear as a tight grouping of people from a Mamaroneck Road vantage point may, in fact, be proper social distancing.

The County Executive, George Latimer, and I share the view that providing recreational opportunities, inclusive of social distancing, is important for resident health and mental well-being. The County Executive and the Village will continue operating recreational facilities for public

enjoyment as conditions permit, provided that the public respects and adheres to social distancing mandates.

### **Face Coverings**

It is the law to wear a mask in public if you are unable to maintain at least six feet of distance from others. Please be diligent about mask usage to help stop the spread.

### **New York's Reopening**

Governor Cuomo stated on Monday, "As we begin to reopen, we will approach the process on a regional basis. New York State is made up of diverse regions and each region is now facing a different set of circumstances. To guide the decision as to timing, we will look to four core factors: the number of new infections, health care capacity, diagnostic testing and contact tracing. As areas reopen we will continually monitor these factors throughout the days and weeks and rely on them to prevent a second wave of the virus. The path forward is reliant on the data, metrics and personal accountability. Reopening our state is far more complicated than shutting down was; if you open too quickly you can immediately have a backlash, as other countries have seen. We must be smart."

### **New York State of Health**

I am pleased to announce that Governor Cuomo further extended the enrollment period for New York State's health exchange, [New York State of Health](#). Residents now have until June 15<sup>th</sup> to apply for health insurance. Please note that you must apply within 60 days of losing prior coverage. For more information, go to [www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov](http://www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov).

### **Mental Health Awareness Month**

May is mental health awareness month – which is apropos as we continue to struggle with the emotional hardships of living through the pandemic. New York State has partnered with [Headspace](#) to provide New Yorkers with free meditation and mindfulness resources. Visit [www.headspace.com/ny](http://www.headspace.com/ny).

There are also a number of regional support systems that we may utilize to manage this stressful time. New Yorkers may call the COVID-19 Emotional Support Hotline at 1-844-863-9314 for mental health counseling. In addition, Westchester's branch of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) has a help line at 914-592-5458, which is answered by trained staff ready to provide current resources and support.

### **Village Election**

Late last week, the Governor signed an Executive Order to delay local special district and village elections until September 15, 2020. More information will be forthcoming.

## Census

Please remember to complete your census questionnaire, which may also be completed [online](#) quickly and easily. The Census results determine the allocation of federal disbursements, so please be counted to help our state, county and Village.

## Community

Since joining together to sing “God Bless America” in early April, I have received a number of suggestions for community building activities. This week, I would like to reply to a number of suggestions to hold a community “clap” at 7pm to honor our healthcare professionals and first responders. Let’s join together to “clap” our hands, bang pots and pans, and ring bells in support of our frontline and essential workers on Monday, May 11, at 7pm. Let’s make noise to show how much we appreciate those who are serving at this critical time.

Additionally, please note that overlooking the Hudson River and the Palisades at [Lenoir Preserve](#) stands a new memorial, the [Ribbons of Remembrance](#), dedicated to Westchester County residents who have lost their lives to COVID-19. Residents are encouraged to visit and add their personal tribute to the memorial.

Finally, the Westchester County Parks and Recreation Society, comprised of parks and recreation professionals serving local governments, encourages residents to recognize and support our food service and supply chain workers, essential workers, and first responders for their service during the COVID-19 pandemic by displaying red, white, and blue ribbons. Red honors food service and supply chain workers, white honors essential workers, and blue honors our first responders – feel free to display them individually, or as a combined red, white, and blue ribbon.

Email me at [mayor@scarsdale.com](mailto:mayor@scarsdale.com) with other community-oriented ideas, and I will include select suggestions in future community letters.

## Closing Remarks

Thank you all for continuing to demonstrate why Scarsdale is such a special place to live. Your generosity, compassion, and strength are remarkable. Take care of one another and continue to be kind and patient.

Please stay safe, social distance, and be well.

Sincerely,



Marc Samwick  
Mayor