



VILLAGE OF SCARSDALE

Open Letter to Scarsdale Community

COVID-19 Update: May 28, 2020

Dear Scarsdale Community,

On Tuesday, we reached a milestone and have reopened in Phase 1 of [NY Forward](#), the Governor's plan for reopening New York and building back better. This milestone, while significant after two-plus months of restrictions, remains somewhat limited. Permitted activities under [Phase 1](#) include construction, wholesale trade, and manufacturing activities as well as curbside pickup of certain retail. Phase 1 is expected to lead to further openings in the coming weeks. [Phase 2](#) includes a broader opening of retail along with professional services, administrative support and real estate.

The Village has started planning for future phases, particularly with respect to assisting our Village merchants in the reopening of their businesses and reactivation of complementary Village public spaces. While our local businesses must continue to adhere to applicable codes and regulations, whether local, County, or State, the Village is endeavoring to support their pivot back to normal through creative and flexible solutions undertaken to not only smooth the transition, but also with an eye toward cultivating enhanced local vibrancy and improved business profitability. To that end, I have asked Trustee Veron to be the point person to work with Village staff, the Scarsdale Business Alliance, and our local merchants to identify opportunities to support and advance such worthwhile goals. We look forward to this collaborative effort and the benefits that will come from this talented group.

Our progress reaching Phase 1 of NY Forward has been a direct result of our vigilance in following the Governor's Executive Orders. Our future progress remains in our hands. Please continue to social distance, wear a face covering, wash your hands, and help your neighbors, especially those most at risk. Perhaps most importantly, stay home when you are not feeling well. We remain in this together and all of our actions matter – they determine the future path we will face.

Scarsdale Pool Complex Survey

As you may be aware, the Parks, Recreation, and Conservation Department has made a number of facility and programmatic changes in response to rules and regulations promulgated by New York State in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Perhaps you have had the opportunity to review our most recent [Updated Parks Facilities and Programming Info](#) press release on the topic.

One of the significant recreation questions remaining for 2020 is whether we will be authorized to open the Scarsdale Municipal Pool Complex. We believe that the State of New York will at

some point allow us to do so and we have tentatively targeted Saturday July, 18. If authorized to proceed, opening the Pool Complex is no small undertaking, and it is costly.

Amidst our current efforts to operate under austerity measures in response to anticipated revenue declines in connection with the broader economic impacts of COVID-19, the Village really needs your help in determining whether it is likely to be fiscally responsible to open our treasured Pool Complex for a shortened season.

To that end, staff has worked with the Scarsdale Advisory Council on Communications to draft a rather brief survey – it should take no more than five or ten minutes of your time – to gauge resident interest in purchasing a 2020 Scarsdale Pool Membership. The survey will be circulated tomorrow, Friday, May 28, with responses due the following Friday, June 05. Because of time constraints, it will be an electronic survey.

Again, please take time from your schedule to complete the survey (only one per household, please) and encourage Scarsdale friends and neighbors to do the same. Assuming that we receive permission from the State of New York and Westchester County to open the Complex this year, we face an important fiscal decision; your candid responses to the survey will help to inform the path we take with the respect to the 2020 Scarsdale Pool Complex season.

Assessment Information

The Town/Village Assessor, Victoria Sirota, has done a wonderful job detailing a nuanced grievance procedure for any property owner wishing to contest their property assessment amidst the COVID-19 operating environment we continue to experience; see the [2020 Tentative Assessment Roll and Grievance Process](#) press release for everything you need to know.

Highlights include:

- Tentative Roll will be available [online](#) by June 01, 2020.
- Appointments to discuss one's assessment with the Assessor individually are available until June 12, 2020, by calling 914.722.1133, or by emailing grievance@scarsdale.com.
- [Grievance](#) Day is June 16, 2020, and will be conducted via Zoom.

Leaf Blower Restrictions

The annual [Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Ban](#) goes into effect on Monday June, 01.

Please recognize the stressful circumstances that we have all endured throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and make exceptional effort to see that your landscaper does not use a gas-powered leaf blower while the ban is in effect.

The Scarsdale Police Department has been directed to be particularly sensitive to the law this year and our residents should expect rigorous enforcement, though we hope for rigid compliance under these historic circumstances, instead.

Pedestrian Safety

Please continue to be cautious when driving, walking, running or bicycling. Our streets are busier than usual with more people at home. Also, as we are in Phase 1 of NY Forward, there will be increased vehicular traffic and more construction and landscaping vehicles parked on our roadways. Please slow down and remain aware of your surroundings as you travel around the Village.

Also, did you know that pedestrians walking on rights-of-way shared with vehicles should walk facing oncoming traffic, while cyclists should ride in the same direction as traffic?

As a pedestrian, walking while facing traffic may save your life if a driver becomes distracted and drifts into your path – please practice this safety measure and encourage members of your family to do the same.

Celebrations and Remembrances

This is traditionally a season of celebration as we honor our high school and college graduates. While this year those events may look different, they are still important milestones and deserve recognition. We have seen creative community and family approaches to celebrate the achievements of our children, students, friends, and neighbors. Scarsdale High School teachers paraded past each senior's house with car horns blaring and teachers cheering, proudly displaying Class of 2020 signs. Many families are devising creative and unique celebrations for the Class of 2020. While this is no substitute for Senior Options, Prom, and Graduation, it is heartening to see people honoring the achievements of our Senior Class.

To Scarsdale's graduating classes of 2020: This marking of your major achievement is not taking place as anyone would have expected, but please know that we remain so proud of your achievements and your future remains bright – even if may take a little longer to get started.

Please continue to take care of one another and to do your part to keep the spread of this disease in check. Be well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marc Samwick', written in a cursive style.

Marc Samwick
Mayor