



VILLAGE OF SCARSDALE

Mayoral Community Update

COVID-19 and Other Information: July 29, 2021

Dear Scarsdale community,

I hope that each of you is having a pleasant summer, relishing the opportunity to spend time with loved ones, making memories together, and simply experiencing the joy of in person connections. Our shared experience throughout the pandemic poignantly illustrates the expression of not taking life for granted. In some ways, this summer feels to me like having a chance to begin again, to rethink and reset our priorities.

Eleanor Roosevelt once commented, “The purpose of life, after all, is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for a newer and richer experience.” Indeed, there are opportunities for each of us in our public, private, and professional lives to stretch ourselves, and after the hard work is done, to refuel and find sustenance at home in Scarsdale.

I wish every Scarsdalian the best in their summer adventures and look forward to continuing to collaborate with you in the fall as we strive to maintain and enhance our exceptional quality of life. With love for our community and a commitment to forward thinking for our collective benefit, your Village staff and elected leadership are working hard throughout the summer to not only deliver outstanding service, but to also support community events and develop near-term opportunities for public engagement on topics of import to the Scarsdale community.

I will now cover some timely topics of community interest, starting with a COVID-19 update.

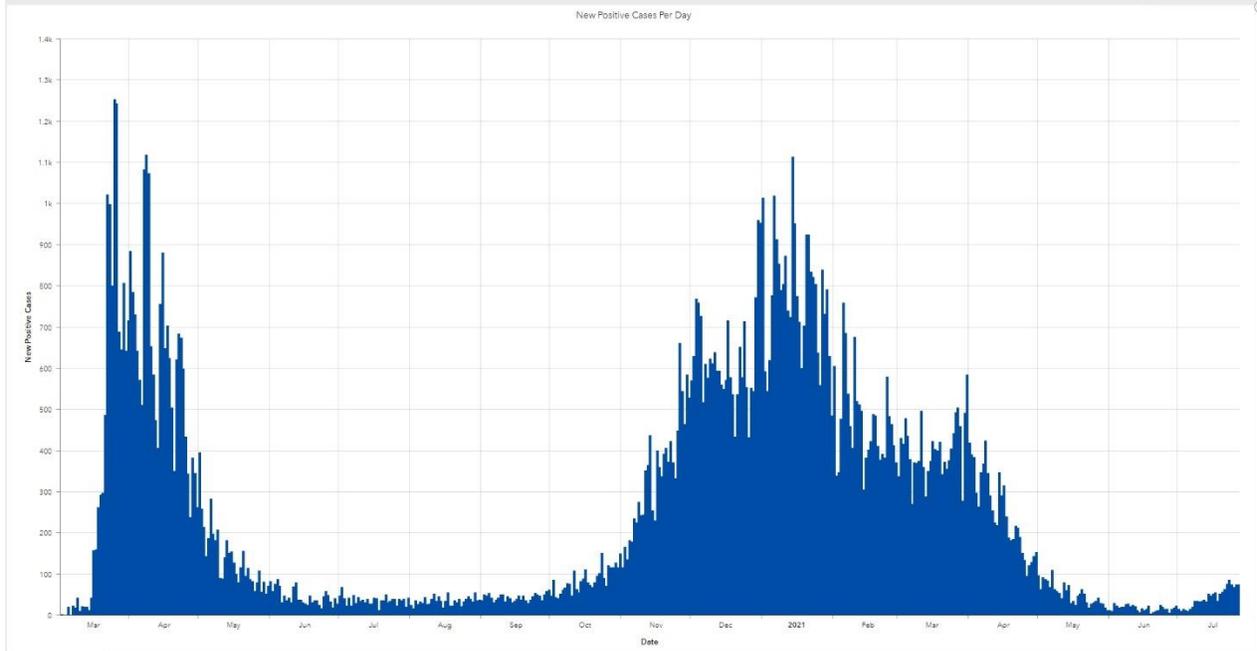
COVID-19

The Village Board and staff are sometimes asked about COVID-19 trends within the Scarsdale community. To help interested community members to access this sort of information at their discretion, please note the following online resources, which are the same information sources that we rely upon:

[Westchester County COVID-19 Dashboard](#) (Note that Google Chrome does not perform well)

[CDC County Data Tracker](#) (Shows county-level COVID transmission rates)

[NYSDOH COVID Data Portal](#) (Catalog of NYSDOH COVID Data)



The image captioned above is a screenshot depicting new cases per day, as presented on the Westchester County COVID-19 Dashboard (July 28, 2021). As you will note, the total number of cases per day is higher than at this time last year, though significantly lower than past peaks.

However, news reports and the Centers for Disease Control have recently highlighted an increase in new cases involving the COVID-19 Delta Variant. By way of added background, and from a biological perspective, viruses constantly change through mutation. Thus, as was anticipated, the CDC reports that such COVID-19 genetic variants have been emerging and circulating around the world throughout the pandemic.

The CDC's classification scheme for COVID-19 variants includes [Variant of Interest](#), [Variant of Concern](#), and [Variant of High Consequence](#) – no Variant of High Concern has been identified to date. Nonetheless, the Delta Variant, a Variant of Concern, has caused a recent update to CDC mask and social distancing guidance.

As of July 27, the CDC updated their [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#) in response to increases in new positive cases in connection with the COVID-19 Delta Variant. None of the updates apply to Scarsdale or Westchester County at this time, as they only modify guidance for areas experiencing [substantial or high transmission rates](#).

On a scale of Low, Moderate, Substantial, or High, Westchester County is classified as Moderate. However, please note that fully vaccinated members of our community traveling to and from New York City should comply with the new guidance, as the NYC Burroughs and the entirety of Long Island are presently classified as areas of substantial transmission.

The updated CDC guidance, which has not yet been implemented by the NYSDOH, now advises that:

- Fully vaccinated people should wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission.
- Fully vaccinated people might choose to wear a mask regardless of the level of transmission, particularly if they are immunocompromised or at increased risk for severe disease from COVID-19, or if they have someone in their household who is immunocompromised, at increased risk of severe disease or not fully vaccinated.
- Fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are to be tested 3-5 days after exposure and are to wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.
- CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status. Scarsdale Schools reports that, while the New York State Department of Health has typically taken direction from the CDC, the NYSDOH has not yet developed new guidance for schools. However, Scarsdale Schools will follow the NYSDOH guidance that is issued with respect to the 2021-22 school year.

If you or a family member is eligible to become vaccinated and have not yet become vaccinated, please consult with your physician and promptly adhere to the guidance provided.

Finally, please note that the [NYSDOH](#) continues to mandate that all unvaccinated persons wear a mask indoors, with limited exception, such as eating or drinking, as well as outdoors when unable to maintain social distancing from others. The Village of Scarsdale continues to monitor CDC and NYSDOH guidance and will be adjusting our protocols for staff and visitors as the NYSDOH advises necessary.

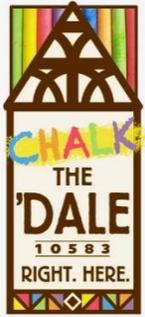
Annual Sidewalk Sale

I am pleased to announce that the Annual Sidewalk Sale is now in full swing through Saturday night, July 31! Not only do summer deals abound, but there is also great food and refreshing drinks, as well a variety of special events. Some of the highlights include the [Westchester Band](#) playing in Chase Park on Thursday evening;



[ScentFluence](#) hosting a Guess the Scent interactive event in the Dine the 'Dale tent and Chalk the 'Dale (sign up details below) in Boniface Circle, both on Friday evening; and, live bands playing to Rock the 'Dale in Chase Park from 12:00PM to 5:00PM on Saturday.

Chalk the 'Dale



The ever-popular Chalk the 'Dale event is returning to the Annual Sidewalk Sale on Friday, July 30, from 6:00PM-8:00PM!

Please register to help add a splash of color for Sidewalk Sale attendees to enjoy. Last year's event resulted in some wonderful chalk art to complement the vibrant sale atmosphere, and we're hoping for an equally big splash this year.

Interested participants should [register](#) ahead of time.

Strategic and Financial Planning Framework

Policy Level Teams and Working Groups



Revised 05/30/2021

The Village Board continues to collaborate with staff to advance our Strategic and Financial Planning initiative. For [additional background](#) about the Framework, please review last month's Community Update. At present, I am providing an update on the three Special Assignments incorporated into the Framework as priority tasks for the Board and staff to move forward in parallel to development of the goals and objects to support the Four Pillars of Government.

Pool RFP

The draft Request for Proposals, VM #1279 – Municipal Pool Complex Market Study and Existing Conditions Survey, was reviewed at the Village Board public work session held on June 15, 2021. A copy of the RFP is included in the agenda packet, [available online](#) (PDF pages 12 –

43). Following the work session, the RFP was published through multiple sources and directly distributed to several prospective firms with relevant expertise. Subsequently, prospective consultants attended an in person walk-through at the Scarsdale Pool Complex, where they were able to see the conditions first hand and ask any questions of the Village's project team. The tour was well-attended and we are hopeful that high quality proposals will be received. The deadline for sealed proposals to be received is July 30, after which two independent teams, one comprised of staff and the other comprised of the Village Board's Working Group assigned to the project, will evaluate the proposals and then convene to compare notes and finalize a recommended consultant to be awarded the contract.

Our primary goals for the study are:

1. The Municipal Pool Complex is viewed by residents as a premier community recreation asset helping to further strengthen Scarsdale's preeminence in Westchester County as a superb place to live and raise children.
2. The Pool Enterprise Fund is fiscally sound, capable of supporting operating and projected capital expenses.
3. Pool membership trend is reversed, ultimately attaining historic membership levels.

For those who were unable to attend our June 15 work session, please note that public engagement will be a critical component of the study and there will be abundant opportunity to participate once the contract has been awarded.

Finally, the process used for development and evaluation of the Pool Complex RFP is an exemplary model for vetting major decisions ahead of a contract being placed on a Village Board agenda for formal consideration. The process enables our professional staff to function independently while also having direct access to Village Board representation to assist in clarifying in advance any informational needs and testing assumptions, etc. The collaborative approach supports timelier project delivery, greater public transparency, more efficient business meetings, and improved outcomes.

Village Center/Complete Streets RFP

Development of the Village Center/Complete Streets RFP is following the same model as was taken in completing the Pool Complex RFP. In brief, staff are preparing a draft RFP and will soon be presenting their work to the Village Board Working Group assigned to the project. Staff and the Village Board Working Group will then collaborate to arrive at a version that is ready for presentation to the full Village Board at an upcoming public work session. Once the draft is finalized, the procurement process would be initiated, leading to consultant selection.

Like the Pool Complex project, the Village Center/Complete Streets project will provide substantial opportunity for public engagement.

Village Manager Search

As I have previously reported, the Village Board has been actively engaging in a nationwide Village Manager search, guided by GOVHR, a highly regarded municipal government search firm. After extensive outreach, the Village Board received 56 applications, and after substantial vetting and research, narrowed the field to 14 qualified applicants. The Village Board, Head of Human Resources Angela Sapienza and outside consultant Joellen Cademartori conducted comprehensive interviews with the semifinalists, and then invited the finalists to another set of interviews and presentations that just concluded. The Village Board plans to convene early next month to advance the process. To date, the Village Board has expended over 300 hours to the Village Manager search.

Village Tax Reminder: Due August 01

Please note that the first installment of Village Taxes is due in full on or before August 01, 2021.

Although the second installment of Village Taxes is not due until December 31, 2021, property owners are also able to pay both installments together by August 01 if that is more convenient. Property owners may pay their tax bill(s):

1. [Online](#) at scarsdale.com
2. In person at 1001 Post Road between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM.
3. By mail bearing a U.S. Postal Service postmark. For installment payments by U.S. mail, the first installment must be postmarked no later than August 01, 2021, and the second installment must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2021.

All property owners are encouraged to remit payment online, as it is easy, reliable, and helps Village staff to be more efficient, allowing more time to serve other community needs. Please contact the Village Treasurer's Office either by phone, 914.722.1170, or by email, treasurer@scarsdale.com, with any questions.

Items Worth Repeating

Peak Water Usage Season – Monitor and Conserve Now!

Because high water bill complaints are a perennial source of resident consternation, I am repeating this information one more time, as the summer watering season is still upon us.

As the lawn irrigation season gets underway, don't forget that the base water rate for all customers is increased 3%, effective June 01, 2021. To avoid the stress of receiving an expensive water bill in August and thereafter, water users are strongly encouraged to amplify their water conservation measures. Take time to review our online [Conservation Tips](#), particularly those related to leaks and outdoor water use – the major drivers of exceptionally high bills.

Invariably, there is community angst when water bills spike with increased outdoor use during the watering season. Keep in mind that there is a lag between usage and billing, which sometimes causes confusion over a high bill. To illustrate, the August billing includes usage from mid-March through mid-June, with mid-June through mid-August not being billed until November. It is relatively easy to track your water consumption between billings – be proactive and don't wait to be surprised well after your ability to control your bill has passed.

Adopting conservation measures and proactive usage monitoring now can help to reduce or eliminate water bill sticker shock later. Leaks can be extraordinarily expensive.

With that reminder once again emphasized, I wish every Scarsdalian a wonderful balance of the summer – it will not be long before our children, youth, and young adults are returning to school. Enjoy your time together!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jane E. Veron', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jane E. Veron
Mayor