

COMMUNITY NEWS

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Message from Supervisor Whitney

BY JOHN C. WHITNEY, P.E.

Town Supervisor

Fellow Islanders:

Heartfelt Passover and Easter wishes to everyone as we truly live through a pandemic event that none of us could ever have dreamed of.

Restaurants, which would have been packed this weekend, are suddenly relying on takeout business to stay alive; but worse, our houses of spiritual worship on Grand Island and throughout New York state are closed, forcing residents to praise via the internet or television.

In accordance with Gov. Andrew Cuomo's executive orders, we encourage everyone to follow social distancing and best management practices to minimize the spread of this virus. Mostly, though, we encourage everyone to follow the orders of the governor and Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz and continue to stay away from crowds.

We join them in encouraging



Supervisor John Whitney and Lynn Dingey (Submitted)

residents to get out for some fresh air and exercise. We are also fortunate to live on this beautiful island that has two amazing state parks – Beaver Island on the West River and Buckhorn on the East River – which are perfect for walking, biking and fishing. For bicyclists and walkers, enjoy the beautiful bicycle path along the West River. Also, our Grand Island parks, Veterans Park and Scenic Woods are available for walking or biking. A ride around

the island is 27 miles. Remember, social distancing!

Just to reiterate my message from last week: The town has reduced our staff to all but essential operations, and we have closed all public buildings, including Town Hall, highway, library, Golden Age Center and recreation buildings. We are asking residents to mail a check for their water bills or place one in the dropbox located outside the lower level entrance to Town Hall. Online payment is another option.

Please continue to take this virus seriously! Continue to practice safe social distancing, wash your hands often, use hand sanitizer, and wipe down surfaces with disinfecting wipes.

Be positive and, when feeling low, call a friend or take a walk. If you can, order takeout from the many restaurants on the Island. A listing of them is included in this week's Dispatch.

Enjoy the holiday and stay safe!

Grand Island Lions receive grant for Family Justice Center

The Grand Island Lions have been approved as the sponsor for the children's room of the newest Family Justice Center satellite located in the former parsonage of Trinity United Methodist Church on Whitehaven Road. The Lions have secured a \$1,500 matching grant from the Brandel-Murphy Youth Foundation that provides grants for Lions-sponsored projects across New York that demonstrate focus for helping children in need.

A press release said, "With contributions from the community through the Lions fundraisers and other foundations, the funds will provide the means for children to have a welcome respite from the trauma that accompanies domestic violence cases.:"

Marcey Bryant, FJC's marketing, events and fundraising specialist, said, "Similar to other FJC locations, the Grand Island satellite will host a room for children, stocked with toys, games, books and more; that allows children to do what they do best – play!"

"Rather than join their parent and relive the trauma of the verbal, emotional and physical abuse going on at home, children can play under the supervision of trained staff and volunteers, while their parent or guardian receives services with our domestic violence advocates. ..."

"We are so happy and thankful that the Grand Island Lions Club, and Brandel-Murphy Youth Foundation, has committed to sponsoring the children's room at our

new Grand Island site!"

The Brandel-Murphy Youth Foundation has also provided past matching grants to the Lions for the Miracle League playground, the annual Special Kids Picnic held at the Buffalo Launch Club, and the new playground at Sidway Elementary. All told, \$13,000 obtained from the generous donations of local citizens and matching grants from the foundation have made life better for all kids who live and visit here.

The Lions welcome ideas and suggestions from the community on humanitarian projects that could use a helping hand to bring to fruition. Contact can be made online at the Lions Facebook page or via mail at PO Box 71, Grand Island, NY 14072.

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