

Whitney: Thoughts on this dreadful pandemic

BY JOHN C. WHITNEY, P.E.
Grand Island Supervisor

Fellow Islanders:
Yes, this is an awful period in our lives. People are out of work, we are isolated, and we are trying to stay in quarantine. Cabin fever is creeping in.

Let's use this time in quarantine thinking of ways to help each other.

Let's thank our health care professionals, first responders, restaurant workers, frontline employees in grocery stores and pharmacies, delivery drivers or the many essential service providers who are risking their lives so we may continue to enjoy safety and health. Without them, this situation would look much different and it would not be pretty.

Imagine if we could not access food and those that at risk would have been without food from the very beginning of this craziness without delivery personnel being available to us.

Let's help our local restaurants and order takeout meals for breakfast, lunch or dinner. We have many fantastic restaurants on Grand Island that have always been there for us – and now we need to be there for them. Check out the list of restaurants open for takeout in this Dispatch, and remember to tip them when you place orders.

I hear a lot of people comparing this COVID-19 pandemic to the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918. Think about how tough that must have been for those people, especially if they lived in a city. Re-

member, in that era, there were wealthy families who had their own large homes but, if you were not part of that class, you probably lived in a city apartment. Not only that, but back then, large families were raised in those conditions. Social distancing would have been nearly impossible. Also, there was no telephone, radio was scarce, no television, and certainly no internet to provide FaceTime, Zoom, GoToMeeting, or other forms of video communication.

Sanitation was still not fully understood back then. Maybe you lived on a farm and you made your monthly trip into town to buy your supplies. You had no way of knowing there was a pandemic and you were driving right into the middle of it.

Today's information age provides us news instantly.

So, let's try to keep a positive outlook about the COVID-19 2020 pandemic. I know the amount of restrictions being placed upon all of us are burdensome, but this too shall pass. What new lessons have you learned in the quarantine that you will carry into whatever the "New Normal" will be?

One of the dangers of being under quarantine in our homes for so long is the risk of depression or anxiety if we try to figure all of this out. We must refrain from falling into those mental traps by staying active. Go for a walk or a bike ride, do an online exercise class, and think outside of your normal routine to find other ways to stay busy. Make it a point to call, text or FaceTime with fam-

ily members or friends whom you have not spoken with in a while.

As Islanders, we are fortunate to have many beautiful outdoor spaces to enjoy, especially with the weather breaking. I encourage families to organize walks, runs or bike rides through our New York State parks – Beaver Island on West River and Buckhorn on the East River; or take advantage of the long, beautiful bicycle path along the West River; or visit our Grand Island parks and trails, such as Veterans Park and Scenic Woods. Visit and walk through the DeGlopper Memorial Park at Baseline and Grand Island Boulevard to reflect on the Islanders who sacrificed their lives for our freedom.

I have offered a lot of opportunities for us to be active during these quarantine times. Let me know how you and your family are handling it, or what you are doing to help others, by sending a note or a picture to me at jwhitney@grand-island.ny.us, or to Rhonda Diehl at rdiehl@grand-island.ny.us. We will post some on the Town of Grand Island website, www.grand-island.ny.us, or its Facebook page (The Town of Grand Island). If you need to speak with us, call 716-773-9600, ext. 616, and it will ring through to my cell phone, or Rhonda at extension 617.

As always, remember to practice social distancing, wash your hands often, disinfect surfaces and continue to stay safe!

We will get through this; we must.

Grand Island businesses help Buffalo's east side

Many saw the announcement earlier this month that the Island Deli & Meat Market was temporarily closing due to the economic and health ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic. Longtime Grand Island resident Richard Gurbacki saw the announcement and placed a call to Eric Berger, the owner, and Tracy Crouse, the manager of Island Deli, and asked what would happen to the food that would not be used when the business was closed.

Gurbacki, who is on the board of directors of the Response to Love Center, indicated to Crouse

that the center provides daily meals to hundreds of people from all over the east side of Buffalo – and that number has been growing since early March. So, this small Grand Island business makes the decision not to forget that many people and families that live in Western New York are struggling much more than ever. Gurbacki's SUV was loaded with meats, roasts, produce and prepared foods that were taken to the Response to Love Center.

Gurbacki and Sister Mary Johnice Rzadkiewicz, the director of the Response to Love Center,

jointly stated the organization focuses on improving lives by addressing human needs and providing a pathway to self-sufficiency. Only through the kindness and consideration of businesses such as the Island Deli & Meat Market can it continue to address those needs.

When we all get through this, please remember the local businesses like the Island Deli in your normal, everyday life.

For more information about the Response to Love Center, go to <http://www.responsetolove.org/> or contact Gurbacki at 361-1145.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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LEGAL NOTICE
PROCLAMATION EXTENDING LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE TOWN OF GRAND ISLAND

JOHN C. WHITNEY, P.E. - TOWN SUPERVISOR

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization designated the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; **WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, United States Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the entire United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; **WHEREAS**, cases of COVID-19 have been documented in Erie County, and both travel-related cases and community contact transmission of COVID-19 have been documented in New York State and more are expected to continue;

WHEREAS, the Governor has declared a Disaster Emergency in the State of New York and the County Executive has declared a State of Emergency for Erie County; and; **WHEREAS**, I previously declared a

local state of emergency within the Town of Grand Island, effective on March 16, 2020 and such proclamation was effective for a period of 30 days; and

WHEREAS, the threat that COVID-19 poses to the health, safety, and welfare of the Town of Grand Island's residents and visitors continues, thus requiring the local state of emergency be continued for another 30 days;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John C. Whitney, Town Supervisor of the Town of Grand Island, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Laws of the State of New York, hereby find, pursuant to Section 24(1) of Article 2-B of the Executive Law, that there continues to be a public emergency in the Town of Grand Island and that the public safety is imperiled thereby, and hereby extend the March 16, 2020 declaration of a local state of emergency within the Town of Grand Island for an additional 30 days, effective immediately; **IN ADDITION**, this declaration shall remain in effect for another 30 days, unless earlier rescinded;

FURTHER, I hereby issue extend an emergency order that meetings of all advisory boards and the Zoning

Board of Appeals, are hereby suspended until further Order, and, pursuant to Section 24(2) of Article 2-B of the Executive Law, this Order shall be in effect for five days, unless extended;

IN ADDITION, I hereby extend an emergency order that all public hearings before any board or body of the Town of Grand Island are hereby suspended and postponed, to be rescheduled at a date, time, and location to be determined and, pursuant to Section 24(2) of Article 2-B of the Executive Law, this Order shall be in effect for five days, unless extended;

IN ADDITION, I hereby extend an emergency order that public attendance at Town Board meetings is hereby suspended, and that any proceedings of the Town Board shall be made available via livestream or teleconference dial-in, with a link or call-in information posted on the Town of Grand Island website, pursuant to the Governor's Declaration of a Disaster Emergency, and, pursuant to Section 24(2) of Article 2-B of the Executive Law, this Order shall be in effect for five days, unless extended; **FURTHER**, I hereby extend an emergency order that all laws providing for deadlines for action of any board are hereby tolled during the pendency of this State of Emergency, and, pursuant to Section 24(2) of Article 2-B of the Executive Law, this

Order shall be in effect for five days, unless extended;

IN ADDITION, a copy of this Proclamation and the emergency orders herein shall be posted on the Town of Grand Island website, distributed to the media, and published in the official newspaper of the Town of Grand Island;

FURTHER, the Town is asking the public not to come to any Town facilities or offices for non essential reasons and the Town is urging all community groups not to hold large public gatherings; and **IN ADDITION**, additional emergency orders may be issued in light of further developments in responding to this disaster, pursuant to Section 24, Article 2-B of the Executive Law. **GIVEN**, this 15th day of April, 2020. Publish Dispatch Apr. 17, 2020

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Formation of Belle and Julia LLC, brand and online store offering sustainable and artisan products. Filed with NY Secretary of State (NYSS) on 02/06/20 Office Location: ERIE county NYSS designated processed agent Purpose of LLC: Any Lawful Purpose. www.belleandjulia.com Publish Dispatch Apr. 3, 10, 17, 24 and May 1, 8, 2020



NEED FOOD?

For temporary assistance, call the Neighbors Foundation of Grand Island 773-1452 or 773-7476

All inquiries are confidential

Our Mission Statement:

Provide confidential emergency assistance, primarily food, for Grand Island residents who find themselves in temporary need. A volunteer organization, using churches and other organizations to collect and stock an immediate needs food pantry, and raising money through community wide fund drives (Share Your Happiness at the Holiday Season).



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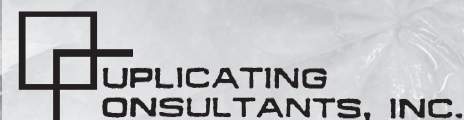


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