



First responders and medical professionals – running toward the danger – we thank you!

BY JENNIFER BANEY, TOM DIGATI, MIKE MADIGAN, PETE MARSTON AND JOHN WHITNEY

Grand Island Town Board

Reminiscent of 9/11, our first responders and medical professionals on the Island are risking a lot (themselves) to save a lot (save others). The Town of Grand Island thanks these remarkable and heroic individuals that are truly selfless.

It is human nature to avoid life-threatening risks – especially

those hidden or silent risks that can be brought home to their own family. Our first responders and medical professionals are right there on the front line doing just that.

As an example, the Grand Island Fire Department responded to eight calls Friday, March 27, (the first call being at 5 in the morning and the last at near midnight). At a time when our residents are being asked to stay at home to prevent getting sick, our volunteers, following a

stringent protocol that mitigates risk, are entering homes to help people that are sick or injured, including patients suspected of having COVID-19. Similar heroic acts are being performed by the ambulance crews, doctors and nurses who are on the front lines against this virus, many of which are Island residents.

Our entire community has stepped up in this challenging time. The outpouring of people throughout our community who are volunteering to help the

most vulnerable amongst us is truly remarkable.

Neighbors are checking on neighbors, making certain they are OK and giving them support by shopping for and providing food. Many have organized, with support from the town and our schools, delivering meals and groceries to those who need this assistance. Others have supported our hardest hit businesses, such as our restaurants, by ordering out and providing them a financial lifeline

that is much needed.

A truly heartfelt thanks to all of you for pulling together as a community. Your efforts are what make our community so fantastic and you are making our community and country safe and strong in this challenging time. You are truly great Americans.

The next time you see one of these folks – from a safe distance, of course – please thank them!



We miss you, too

St Stephen's School on Baseline Road posted a fun message across the front windows to encourage students and families to stay positive and supportive of one another during these challenging times of distance learning.

"We wanted our students and children in other schools to feel a little bit of the love that teachers have for them," teacher Karen Figler said.

'We will get through this. We can; we must.'

BY JOHN C. WHITNEY, P.E.

Town Supervisor

Fellow Islanders:

In accordance with Gov. Cuomo's executive orders, the town has reduced our staff to all but essential operations. We have closed all public buildings, including Town Hall, highway, library, Golden Age Center and recreation buildings.

With water bills being sent out, we're asking that you mail a

check or place one in the dropbox located outside the lower level entrance to Town Hall. Online payment is another option.

We must remember that this virus is not to be taken lightly. Please practice safe social distancing, wash your hands often, use hand sanitizer, wipe down surfaces with disinfecting wipes. Work from home, if possible, and avoid large social gatherings. In other words, please do every-

thing possible to minimize the spread of this disease.

In these trying times, we need to try to stay positive. Isolation can lead to depression. If the weather allows, get outside, take a walk, go for a ride. Make some phone calls, reach out to a friend or your neighbors. We will get through this. We can; we must.

Hopefully this will be over soon. On a lighter note, spring is here! Stay safe.



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