

Viewpoints, Hamilton County Express

May 28—June 3, 2020

Speculator Embarks on Phase 1 Reopening

Congratulations to our citizens and the North Country. Due to our collective efforts we have started PHASE 1 of Reopen NY for the North Country Region. This doesn't mean we are out of the "COVID-19 woods", but it does mean we are headed in the right direction. Moving through the reopening phases and keeping our county healthy continues to depend on all of us: full-time residents, seasonal residents, our families, our guests and the tourists and visitors to this Village.

First, we must all continue to remain vigilant with hand washing, disinfecting, keeping distance of 6' and wearing a face mask when in public places. If you are visiting here from other areas, we trust that you are coming here virus-free and ask you to avoid public places if you begin to feel unwell, or if you have come in contact with someone who has been diagnosed with active COVID. Please protect our vulnerable population.

Second, be aware of your health, and that of your family and friends—Take every precaution, isolate and call your doctor if you are experiencing symptoms or are feeling ill. Self-isolate as needed.

Next, continue supporting our local businesses. Essential businesses, construction and manufacturing have reopened. Most of our restaurants are providing take-out service. Restaurants and retail stores are busily preparing their plans for reopening to welcome you back safely. When Governor Cuomo and the State Department of Health give us their approval to transition to Phases 2 & 3, our restaurants and retailers will be well positioned to serve all of us safely with the hospitality and warmth we are accustomed to.

Until we receive the appropriate clearance from Governor Cuomo and the State and Department of Health, we ask you to continue to refrain from socially gathering in groups of more than ten people. To that end, gatherings at the Pavilion will continue to be suspended until the ten-person limit is waived by the State for our area. We anticipate that we will be allowed to open the Village public beach by the end of June.

Please note that July Fourth may look different this year. We do not yet have specifics from the Governor or the State that may dictate some changes, but rest assured we will celebrate safely and compliantly. We will update the community as soon as we have the requirements from the State and Department of Health.

Stay healthy and remain vigilant. Be especially mindful of our vulnerable population and others. Help us all remain compliant during Phase 1 to continue our path to Phases 2 & 3 and beyond to fully reopen in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Jeannette A. Barrett
Speculator Mayor