Municipal officials state actions taken regarding COVID-19

By Kristine Couter

In a press release sent out last week, Beacon City officials announced public meetings will now be held in the much larger public meeting room across from the Municipal Building on Route 9D at the Lewis Tompkins Hose Meeting Room at 13 South Avenue in Beacon. This is because of social distancing. The meetings will still be televised.

The City is canceling or postponing public-supported events involving large attendance schedules between now and the end of April - including the Parade of Green, Good Friday Procession, Easter at Memorial Park, Easter Sunrise Service and the Beacon Barks Parade.

Regarding recreation programs, "The City is following the lead of the Beacon City School District, and discontinuing programming consistent with the school district schedule. Other City-sponsored recreational activity involving small groups in large enough venues will continue, with City staff monitoring and ensuring allowance for social distancing."

City Hall will remain open.

For more information, visit http://www.CityofBeacon.org.

City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Rob Rolison announced that City Hall was in for a deep cleaning over the weekend of March 14 - 15. "Due to the evolving situation involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) issue, we feel it is prudent to take these steps at this time," Rolison said in a press release.

He also noted that to get the latest updates on the COVID-19 and the impacts on the area, the public should go to https://www.dutchessny.gov/. The Dutchess County Department of Community and Behavioral Health and Emergency Response to plan and prepare for the COVID-19 issue in our community. With the declaration of COVID-19 and [confirmed cases] here in Dutchess County, Government Agencies are recommending the suspension of community and social gatherings of more than 20 people, as a precautionary measure, until the end of April."

Rolison said, "This guidance will be updated and revisited regularly over the coming days and weeks. In keeping with this recommendation, the Town is suspending all Senior Center activities until further notice, as well as many Rec Center programs and community events."

The Village of Wappingers Falls officials announced that the Village Hall was closed until further notice, as of press time. "Due to the evolving situation involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) issue, we feel it is prudent to take these steps at this time," Rolison said in a press release.

On the East Fishkill website, a General Alert was issued about COVID-19. "At this time, we plan to keep our senior center open but want to encourage anyone who feels under the weather not to come in that day. This being said, we will ask any person showing any sneezing, coughing, or other signs of possible illness to leave so we ask you to self-isolate," stated Thurston.

For scheduled public meetings, such as those of the Town Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board town officials have not yet decided whether or not to cancel any meetings. "We will advise no later than the morning of the day of the scheduled meeting. We advise as many people as possible to watch our broadcasts via cable and livestreaming," said Thurston.

On the Dutchess County Department of Public Health website, the Town of East Fishkill has noted, "This suspension will include: All civic events, Social events, the Town of Fishkill Senior Program, East Fishkill Recreation events and other community events. All postponements will be posted on East Fishkill websites and social media pages as well as GovDelivery."

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The Village of Wappingers Falls officials announced that their posts pertinent information on their Facebook and Instagram pages and website, https://www.facebook.com/WappingersFallsN.Y./.

On the Town of Wappingers website, http://townofwappingersny.gov/, Supervisor Richard Thurston wrote a blog about what town officials are doing during this uncertain time.

"Effective immediately, all indoor and outdoor events of 20 or more people scheduled by the Town to occur during the months of March and April are being postponed to a later date. Please refer to the Town's recreation website, the Town website and our Social media for further information; TOWN HALL WILL REMAIN OPEN during normal working hours UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE; WE ARE CONTINUING TO FOLLOW BASIC HYGIENIC PRACTICES WITHIN OUR TOWN BUILDINGS," he wrote

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On the East Fishkill website, a General Alert was issued about COVID-19. "The Town of East Fishkill has been working in conjunction with Dutchess County Dept. of Behavioral and Community Health and Emergency Response to plan and prepare for the COVID-19 Coronavirus here in our community," stated East Fishkill Supervisor Nicholas D'Alessandro. "With the declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic and a confirmed case in Dutchess County, Government Agencies are recommending the suspension of any community and social gatherings over 20 people, as a precautionary measure through the end of April. This guidance will be updated and revisited regularly over the coming days and weeks." He noted, "This suspension will include: All Planning & Zoning Board meetings, East Fishkill Senior Program, East Fishkill Recreation events and other community events. All postponements will be posted on East Fishkill websites and social media pages as well as GovDelivery."

The Village of Poughkeepsie Supervisor Jon Baisley recommended on his town's website, "Please note that if you need to do business at the Town Hall, and you can do it by phone, it is suggested to please call first. We are still open and fully operational, but we are taking measures as a precaution during the monitoring of the Coronavirus."

It was notes that the Town of Poughkeepsie Senior Center will be closed until further notice. The Town of Poughkeepsie Transfer Station is postponed until May 2. Town of Poughkeepsie Court is closed until further notice, as of press time.

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