



Davis Park Association, Inc.
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Officers:
Jayne Robinson - President
John Lund - Vice President
Erich Hobelmann - Vice President
June Haskins - Treasurer
Marlene Sklar - Secretary

Directors:
Robin Binder • Lisa Daglian
Lorraine Foley • Kevin Loiacono
Joseph Miccio • Nancy Schatz
Jim Wright

To All Davis Park Community Members

We are reaching out to you about the coronavirus and its implications for Davis Park and Fire Island. Please carefully review the points below. **While we cannot prevent people from travelling to Davis Park, we ask that you not go to the beach unless you absolutely must.** We are in an unprecedented situation. With another week or two of preparation, as well as the time to better understand what is happening with the rate of infections, we hope to bring you better news.

The Fire Island Association held a conference call on March 18th with elected and volunteer community leaders, as well as the law enforcement agencies and the emergency responders on Fire Island, to discuss the current situation.

As a result of that call, we have been asked to inform our residents that the **police, fire and medical responders on Fire Island are not yet prepared at this time to handle large numbers of returning residents, either on a weekend basis or looking to move to Fire Island to avoid contact with people.** The availability of emergency responders and volunteer fire department members is still very limited, as are supplies of necessary hazmat suits, masks and goggles. Just a few infections on Fire Island could overwhelm their current resources. **The DP Fire Department has cancelled its Sunday meeting and there may be many fewer first responders available.**

Becoming infected or developing virus symptoms on Fire Island could be disastrous for you and others. Regulations require that an infected person must call the emergency services for evacuation. **He/she must NOT use the ferry service.** Please note that:

- There is only one police vehicle and a limited number of Suffolk County Marine Bureau boats operating at the East end of Fire Island. No helicopters are operating.
- If a vehicle or a boat is needed to transport an infected (or presumed-to-be-infected) person, the vehicle/boat will be out of service not only during the time of that transport but beyond: decontamination takes from 4-8 hours, extending the out-of-service period. **We understand that if a person is infected, they will be removed and the entire house will be under quarantine and not permitted to leave.** With few services available, this could quickly create an extremely difficult situation with regard to food and other supplies.

Remember, there is no regularly scheduled weekday ferry service until April 13th and the **Davis Park Ferry Company says on its website, "This is a rapidly developing situation, and service is subject to cancellation at any time. Nonessential travel is currently not recommended; while we plan to offer ferry service as scheduled, we cannot predict how conditions will evolve."** The Ferry Company may also curtail weekend service. Check the ferry's website before you take a day trip to ensure your property is ok, consult with a contractor, etc., but don't plan to move to the beach at this time to avoid the virus on the mainland.



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Further, the weekend ferries can be crowded, making it difficult to observe "social distancing." While people are encouraged to ride on the upper decks, inclement weather can make that difficult. As noted by Bayshore and Sayville Ferry, **if a single crew member is infected or is reported to have had contact with an infected person, the entire crew and captain may have to go into quarantine.** This chain of events, if repeated, could force the ferry service to shut down entirely.

Conversations have also occurred with the County Executive this week regarding the possibility of an order to "shelter in place" – an order that can only be issued by the Governor, who has stated several times that he is not prepared to go to that extreme – but that could change any day. We were told that it is not clear whether such an order would be issued or what it would entail, as there are several different models in place – as extreme as Italy and France, to the less stringent but still strict San Francisco. In the worst case, it would require that everyone on Fire Island would have to remain there, when announced. This could turn into an extremely difficult situation, diverting aid to the healthy rather than to the sick. We are seeking immediate clarity on this point.

We have your health and safety in mind. **Our best advice is to stay home!** We will continue to update you as we get further information.

The DPA