

VILLAGE OF CATTARAUGUS

Wirt Smith, Mayor

Anthony Nagel, Trustee
George Borrowdale, Trustee
Tamara Stallard-Mormile, Clerk
Frank Watson, Code Enforcement

Douglas Johnson, Trustee
Diane Wienk, Trustee
Jonathan Wolfe, DPW Supt.

Dear Cattaraugus residents,

After much thought and consideration, I am officially, as the elected leader of our wonderful community, exercising the authority granted to me under New York State Executive Law, Article 2-B. At midnight March 20, 2020, the Village of Cattaraugus will be placed into a state of emergency.

Now, with that said, I want us all to take a deep breath. My biggest fear in doing this is that someone sees the words "state of emergency" and doesn't understand why. We need not panic; we need not overreact. To my knowledge, there is yet to be even a "suspected" case of COVID-19, or the coronavirus, within our limits or even within the Town of New Albion. While not all of you know me personally, your neighbors that do will assure you that I am a straight shooter. As a Marine Corps veteran, I have seen moments that were stressful, tense, and potentially just down right terrifying. THIS IS NOT ONE OF THE TIMES!

I don't want to impress you with my vocabulary, using fancy words to make you think I'm of superior station in life and intelligence. I am just the guy in a red pickup, usually in work clothes, who has been graced with the good fortune to be the fella you all elected to be the Mayor. Who knows? Maybe it was for this very situation that the Good Lord said "Wirt should be in the driver seat on this one, just to get us over the hump". There's nothing that we, as friends and neighbors, can't get through in one piece. I know many of you, and I've said it before.... best people I've ever had the privilege of knowing.

The reason I am declaring us in a state of emergency is very simple: pure and simple caution for starters. Secondly, as this unfolds, we may need a helping hand. This opens the door for us to receive funding and aid should we require it. Also, it may be that further action does become necessary, and

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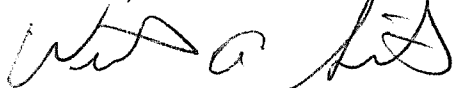
doing this makes it a little easier for me to take whatever steps needed to keep all of your best interests my priority #1. Not just me, but the awesome Board you elected with me and the Village employees that do great work all the time!

Village Hall is officially closed to everyone, but rest assured that the clerks will still be behind that locked door, plugging away as if it was just another day at the office. As they say, the show must go on! I'm only implementing this so that the show goes on with both theirs, AND YOUR, safety in mind. The boys at the DPW will also be continuing to work, and we are all brainstorming ways to assist you and your neighbors in any way we can. In fact, I welcome any ideas you might have that you think could help. I will list contact information below for you to get me those ideas.

If you or someone you know requires special needs, please let us know. We WILL come to assist you if it is in our power to do so, especially our wonderful senior citizens. For those that did not hear earlier in the week, I have given the DPW authority to fetch essentials for our residents at higher risk so that they can limit potential exposure. We will also be assisting the County in ensuring that the Meals-On-Wheels program continues uninterrupted during this necessary phase of caution.

I will do my best to keep everyone updated as this plays out. I stress again, folks----- this is merely all out of caution and just wanting to stay one step ahead. Panic is our enemy, so let's just all remain calm and collected as any other March 19th we've seen come and go. I'm sure that if we all work as a team, John from next door will spare you some toilet paper if necessary or Jane across the street will say "I've made more than enough and it will just go to waste if not so please take these leftovers". That is why I am writing you all this letter with a smile on my face, calm as can be, because I know better than anyone that you, Village of Cattaraugus residents, truly make my job as Mayor easier by just being who you are 365 days a year.

God Bless,



Wirt Smith

Xoxo

Contact Numbers: DPW: 257-5114 Mayor Smith 740-509-3175
 Town Hall: 257-5677 Village Hall: 257-3661