

Area businesses are resilient – with extra precautions on COVID-19

by Curtis Schmidt

Debbi Calabrese jokes that she and her staff “can hear the crickets” at her office in Hopewell Junction.

The owner of Embassy Travel is not referring to any kind of infestation of insects. She is talking about the effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on her business. She figures she has lost almost \$200,000 in cancellations in the past few weeks and the office is so quiet with so few calls coming in.

However, she happily reports that a positive number of clients are moving their trips out to the future and that bookings for 2021 “actually look pretty good.”

While virtually every business in the area has been affected in one way or another by the outbreak, the travel industry has obviously been one of the hardest hit. Some businesses, like grocery and other retail stores, health clubs physical therapy centers are taking extra precautions in regard to cleanliness and restaurant owners are planning for more business to come from take-out.

But Calabrese and others are resilient.

“We came back after 9-11, the swine flu and other situations. We re-invented our business after much of the travel industry changed with the arrival of the internet,” she said. “And I am confident we will come back from this also.”

She added, “We are in the panic phase

right now and that is to be expected, given the uncertainty of what we are dealing with. But we need to remain calm and not over-react. That just makes things worse.”

Calabrese said the way many individuals use social media further contributes to the panic.

“We have so many ways to spread the panic – and positive news – than we have had in the past,” she said. “We need to think about being responsible and not re-transmitting information that has not been verified by medical and/or governmental officials.”

Adams Fairacre Farms

Adams Fairacre Farms with locations in Poughkeepsie, Wappingers Falls, Kingston and Newburgh, listed the following note at its website from Pat and Steve Adams.

“Given the continued news about the coronavirus (COVID-19), we wanted to let you know that Adams Fairacre Farms is closely monitoring local and national reports on the evolving impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) and will follow guidance we receive from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the World Health Organization and applicable public health agencies.

“Our housekeeping and sanitization efforts in our stores have been greatly expanded. We’re frequently disinfecting often-touched surfaces, such as door handles, countertops, keypads, restroom surfaces, shopping carts and baskets. We’re

asking all of our associates (and we urge everyone) to follow the CDC guidelines to prevent the spread of the infection.

“As always, we are concerned about the health and safety of our customers and associates. You are our top priority and we will continue to listen to and address your concerns and we’re committed to doing our part to help keep our customers and employees safe.”

Center for Physical Therapy

The Center for Physical Therapy has locations in Wappingers Falls, Hyde Park and Carmel.

Chris Campilii DPT, said, “At the Center for Physical Therapy we continue to follow the guidelines of the CDC. It is updated on a regular basis. Please read and follow: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html).”

He added, “All of our health professionals and supporting staff are well-versed and trained in universal precautions, including hand washing and sanitizing of all surfaces.

There is plenty of sanitizer throughout the facility for those entering.”

Campilii added the following points:

- We have implemented sick leave policies that are non-punitive, flexible and consistent with public health policies. All healthcare personnel will not report to work if they are ill in any way.

- We have identified patients with signs and symptoms of respiratory infection (e.g., fever, cough) and they are not allowed in the facility.

- We have instructed patients to call ahead to report fever, respiratory symptoms or sickness so we can triage them to a more appropriate setting (e.g., an acute care hospital).

- We have provided patients and personnel with instructions (in appropriate languages) about hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, and cough etiquette.

- We also are addressing any other concerns in an immediate fashion.

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