

COVID-19 OUTBREAK

'We will get through this' 'Be kind, be brave, be a helper'

-Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro

More local coverage of COVID-19 outbreak on pages 2-10

County under State of Emergency

By Kate Goldsmith

Based on an increase of confirmed cases of coronavirus/COVID-19 – with 10 (as of Monday) and an escalation of residents in mandatory and precautionary quarantine – Dutchess County Executive Marcus J. Molinaro declared a State of Emergency for Dutchess County on Friday. The State of Emergency expedites the county's sharing of resources and ability to better respond to this rapidly evolving situation, according to a statement by Communications Specialist Sean McMann.

The State of Emergency is issued pursuant to Section 24 of New York State Executive Law and is enforceable by local, county and state law enforcement agencies. Dutchess, Orange and Ulster counties have each issued emergency orders since confirming multiple cases of coronavirus/COVID-19 over the past several days.

"As coronavirus has emerged as a pandemic, reaching countries on each hemisphere, we in Dutchess County have prepared for the inevitability we would be touched by this emerging health situation," Molinaro said. "Today's declaration is the next step in providing Dutchess County the resources necessary to best respond. This declaration does not limit travel, but we urge residents to limit contact with those who are sick and stay home if sick."

The declaration followed a press conference on March 12 where Molinaro and Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health (DBCH) Commissioner Dr. Anil Vaidian announced the county's first confirmed case of COVID-19.

With the State of Emergency, Molinaro is taking the following steps:

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County Executive Marcus J. Molinaro, who declared a State of Emergency in the county on Friday, discusses Dutchess County's first confirmed case of COVID-19 in a press conference on March 12. At left is Department of Behavioral and Community Health (DBCH) Commissioner Dr. Anil Vaidian.

-Photo by Curtis Schmidt

NY, NJ, CT governors issue uniform limits

On Monday, New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont announced a regional approach to combating the novel coronavirus - or COVID-19 - throughout the tri-state area.

These uniform standards will limit crowd capacity for social and recreational gatherings to 50 people, until further

notice. This follows updated guidance that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued Sunday recommending the cancellation or postponement of in-person events consisting of 50 people or more.

The three governors also announced restaurants and bars will close for on premise service and move to take-out and delivery services only. These estab-

lishments will be provided a waiver for carry-out alcohol. These measures will be in effect until further notice.

Finally, the three governors said they will temporarily close movie theaters, gyms and casinos, until further notice.

This uniform approach to social distancing is meant to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19.

Part of history comes down with demolition of burned WF building

By Rich Thomaselli

A little bit of Village of Wappingers Falls history came down in its entirety last week.

The building at 10 Market Street, parts of which dated back to 1860, was demolished after a devastating fire on Feb. 25 that displaced four businesses on the bottom floor, 10 apartments on the second and third floors and nearly 40 residents.

A private demolition company hired by building owner Jeffrey Knipe did the bulk of the work, leaving a huge pile of rubble and debris in place of what once a vibrant part of the old village – and was becoming so again.

The fire left an emotional void among the business owners and residents, of course, but also in the village and the Town of Wappingers Falls, where longtime natives have been rocked in the past several years by a previous fire in 2017 and the 2012 collapse of the Goring Hall building.

"You know, we tried. We really tried," Wappingers Falls Fire Chief Adam Van Tassell said of the efforts to extinguish the blaze.

Asked if he was aware of the depth of the fire when he first arrived, Van Tassell said "Not right away. We tried to make an aggressive interior attack and put the fire out. But the fire was in the walls and in the ceiling and it just moved too fast."

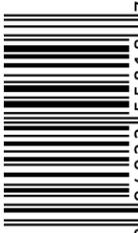
Van Tassell said he is just awaiting a report from Dutchess County officials as to the cause of the fire.



Contractors from Jupiter Environmental work to take down the burned building at 10 Market Street in the Village of Wappingers Falls.

-Photo by Curtis Schmidt

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