

## UPDATE FROM NORTH ELBA SUPERVISOR JAY RAND

December 21, 2020

Dear Citizens of North Elba,

**'TIS THE SEASON, AS WELL AS THE FIRST DAY OF WINTER!**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND BEST WISHES FOR A MUCH IMPROVED - HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

I am amazed how quickly my **first year as North Elba Town Supervisor** has gone by and how much has occurred during my tenure. The year of 2020 has been like no other in our lifetime, and has brought on emotional and economic hardships that none of us could have imagined. Our Country has experienced unrest and chaos within many of its cities and a political divide that has split our nation.

It is more important than ever that we meet the new year as a unified team to embrace solutions to our problems and face the challenges that our Town, County and Country need to remedy.

I offer my **sincere thanks** to the North Elba Town Board and staff for your hard work and diligence throughout this very difficult time, and to the citizens of North Elba for your support and creativity in finding solutions to mitigate COVID -19 challenges as best possible.

The FDA approved **COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer and Moderna is a bright spot on the horizon**. NY State anticipates receiving 170,000 doses of Pfizer vaccine mid-December and 40,000 more doses by Moderna. This is expected to cover 85,000 nursing home residents and most of the 130,000 staff members. The next batch of vaccines will go to congregate care facilities and then some of the roughly 600,000 health care workers who treat patients in emergency rooms and intensive care units. It is estimated that 20 million doses will be made available by the year's end. Both vaccines require two doses.

**Adirondack Health will be holding two mobile COVID-19 testing clinics this week.**

- **Vermontville: Monday December 21, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Town of Franklin Town Hall, 7 Cold Brook Rd**
- **Lake Placid: Tuesday Dec 22, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. – North Elba Town Highway Garage, 5648 Cascade Rd**

**Pre-Registration** is strongly recommended. Call Adirondack Health COVID – 19 Clinic at 518-897-2462. There is no direct cost to the individual being tested, but insurance companies will be billed. Individuals without health insurance will be tested free of charge. Visit [adirondackhealth.org/COVID-19-testing](http://adirondackhealth.org/COVID-19-testing) for test-clinic updates and information.

### **Local Positive COVID-19 Data:**

	<b>Essex County</b>	<b>North Elba</b>
July 1, 2020	59	9
December 19, 2020	480	91

I was saddened to hear the news of the passing of **Natalie Leduc** at the age of 90. She will always be considered a local legend and as described in news articles "**A Pillar of Saranac Lake**". I got to know Natalie best when I was serving as the Whiteface Mountain General Manager. She was a State Champion skier and taught skiing at Mt. Pisgah for 40 years. Natalie had a great collection of pins and patches that she donated to Whiteface. Her "**atomic energy**", **kindness and care for all will always be present in the memories of those who knew her. She will be missed but never forgotten!**

On a joyous note, I offer my **congratulations to Tara Geraghty Moats** who made history last Friday in Ramsau, Austria by **winning the inaugural women's Nordic Combined World Cup Competition**. Tara's victory is the first American Nordic Combined win in over nine (9) years. Tara is a frequent flyer and XC skier at our Lake Placid Olympic Venues. She also overcame some injuries on the way to this outstanding achievement.

Congratulations is also in order to the **Lake Placid Lions Club** who successfully ran a **remote Lions Club Auction** safely and effectively in order to support worthy causes within our Township. Thank you newly appointed King Lion Dan Wikoff and helpers. Many thanks to our outgoing King Lion, Jimmy Hadjis for his many years of service in that role.

**Kudos to the ORDA staff members** who have been working diligently to open the outdoor Venues including Whiteface Mountain, The Olympic Sports Complex (Mt. Van Hoevenberg XC) and the Olympic Jumping Complex in time for the holidays.

It is great to see the venues up and running for the season, even if under some restrictions as announced by Governor Cuomo. **Ski Resorts** are allowed to reopen with 50% indoor capacity. Masks will be required when not eating, drinking or skiing. Lifts will be restricted to members of the same party, and thorough cleaning and disinfection of rented equipment is required along with other health and safety protocols. Ski lessons will be limited to groups of 10, and the outdoor capacity on the mountain will be reduced by 25% during peak days or with lowered number of open trails.

We have also received many inquiries about when the **toboggan slide** will open. Every effort is being made to get the run operational ASAP by Park District Manager Butch Martin and the North Elba Park District Staff. In order to safely put required maintenance equipment on the lake, a foot of ice is required. Other factors, such as snow cover over the thin ice creating insulation can slow ice growth. Getting this run open is a priority. We have the staff, expertise and motive – just need a good spell of prolonged cold weather!

**The Christmas & New Year's holidays are quickly approaching. On behalf of the North Elba Town Board, I wish you a very healthy and Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year. We all want to celebrate with family and friends, but please celebrate small (less than 10 people in private residences) and celebrate safe.**

The [www.forward.ny.gov](http://www.forward.ny.gov) website allows anonymous **complaints of Executive Order regarding COVID-19 protocols by calling 383-789-0470**. Your complaint will remain confidential. Townships are notified of the complaint by the County.

Additional information and daily postings may be found on the [Town of North Elba Website](#), the [Town of North Elba Facebook](#) page, the [Lake Placid Village Facebook](#) page and [Friends of Jay Rand Facebook](#) page.

Relevant local information updates may also be received by subscribing to the [Lake Placid Insider](#).

**STAY SAFE AND BE SMART. FOLLOW NYS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH GUIDELINES AND THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS. LIMIT GROUP GATHERINGS, WASH HANDS OFTEN WITH WARM WATER AND SOAP OR HAND SANITIZERS WITH AT LEAST 60% ALCOHOL, WEAR MASKS IN PUBLIC, ETC.**