

# OPINION

**JACK WHEELER | COUNTY MANAGER**

## A letter to Steuben County residents


**Jack Wheeler**

Fellow Residents – I want to reach out with both updates and a plea for your help in our response to COVID-19.

First, some positives from this crisis - We are fortunate to have such amazing staff working daily for the safety and security of our County. We have engaged and supportive Legislators guiding us and backing us. We have workers of all walks keeping our hospitals, grocery stores, and other essential services functioning. A vast majority in our community are doing the right things to help limit the spread of COVID-19.

But I'm personally growing frustrated in recent days. We are seeing far too many people that either don't know, or don't care about social distancing. We get reports daily of groups of family or friends that meet up to do their shopping together, or to just walk around the stores. We have people that are sick, get tested for COVID and on the way home from the doctors, stop at the store to stock up while symptomatic, exposing countless others. We have our first individual that broke a quarantine order.

We all get it - staying home is hard. It can be boring. It can be monotonous. But it is literally protecting us and our neighbors.

During the first week of "New York State on PAUSE", the reports we

received were very encouraging, and it appeared that most were complying with social distancing. As the weeks advance, staying home and limiting social interactions obviously grows more difficult. This is not our normal way of life and it is hard to adjust and maintain these practices.

However - it is imperative that we do, as the trend of positive cases in Steuben is alarming. At the time of this writing, we have 60 confirmed cases, 13 residents hospitalized with the virus, and 220 individuals in isolation and quarantine.

Tragically, we also had our first COVID-related death this week. On the bright side, we have 12 people that have fully recovered, and we expect that number to grow.

What we desperately need is your help - When going to the store, please shop solo and go by yourself. We know it may not be possible for single parents, but for the rest of us, it's a must. Shop for enough supplies so that you don't need to go out multiple times per week. Use curbside or pickup options where available. Please do not gather with friends for social purposes, as uncomfortable as that may be.

The faster we all commit fully to social distancing, the quicker we will slow the spread of COVID-19 in Steuben County.

The choices we all make today determine what our positive case count will be in the next week or two. Our actions have an exponential impact, both positive and negative. How about we choose the positive, and stay home and stay safe.

**TOM O'MARA | 58TH DISTRICT**

## One priority for all of NY right now


**Tom O'Mara**

These have been unimaginable weeks. We keep going, knowing that the COVID-19 response is paramount to getting our feet back under us and finding some solid ground. Right now, above all else, we need to stay focused on confronting COVID-19 with the personal

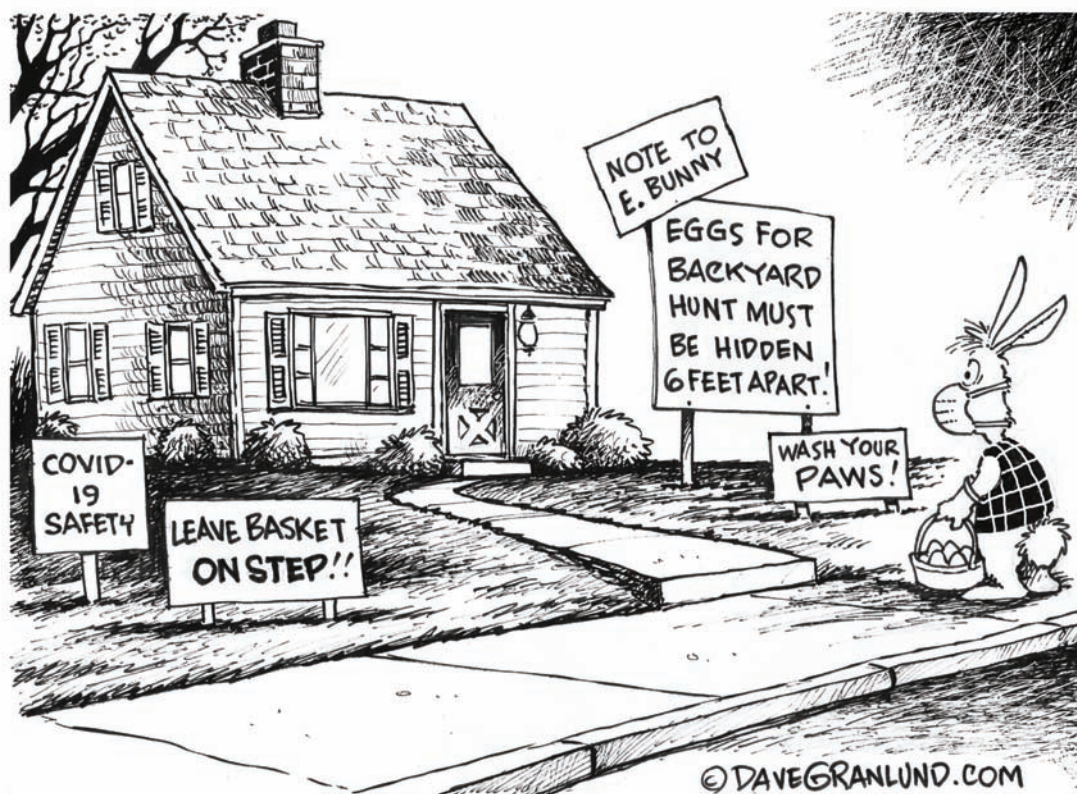
responsibility it demands. Please remember that a "One-Stop" page on omara.nysenate.gov gathers, in one place, links to local, state, and federal life-lines of support and assistance.

By now in New York, the hardest hit state in America, we recognize that within county health departments, as well as throughout state and local agencies and organizations across the spectrum, men and women remain working around the clock. It is an unprecedented and, above all else, life-saving marshaling of resources to defeat a

common, destructive enemy.

Still, government carries on in other ways too. Governor Cuomo himself has stated many times in recent days, especially while addressing the newly enacted 2020-2021 state budget, that we (i.e., government) have to "walk and chew gum at the same time."

I agree and, consequently, I believe some brief comment on the state's new budget is warranted and, in fact, a necessary part of our need to keep looking ahead.

**See O'MARA, A6**
**ANOTHER VIEW**


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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**
**Cuomo taking COVID-19 seriously**

To the Editor, I guess President Trump has never taken a course in Principles of Economics in the old Samuelson widely used college textbook back in the day.

Guns and Butter is an economic policy decision of whether a country is more interested in spending money on war or feeding their people.

Our Governor, Mr. Andrew M. Cuomo has taken that course and knows far too well in the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic we need to spend our money on a new supply for the need of ventilators saving human life and not the stock market. Our Governor has stated if we do not get this supply of ventilators the rate of this virus is going to increase and take more lives in New York State and the rest of the country.

So, Mr. President, if you are serious and would want to make America great and have people live to experience this greatness please listen to Governor Cuomo. Please and go with the ventilators and not the stock market because a lot of people will die of your wrong decision to experience this greatness you plan on implementing.

I commend Governor Cuomo for being so pro-active in this time of crisis and going to do his best to get those 30,000 or more ventilators we need to

save lives in New York State.

Maybe the President should allow Governor Cuomo to sit down and explain to him this important basic concept of Economics before it is too late to make such a bad decision.

**Fran Avagliano  
Corning**
**Socialism: Government of fear**

To the Editor, Socialism, governments of fear and oppression. Germany and Russia of the early 1900s employed both in their brutal takeovers of nations.

Germany (National Socialist Party) began fortifying the fears of a nation punished heavily by losing a war and the effects of a great economic depression post war. Russia (Union of Soviet Socialist Republic) trading oppression under the czar for revolution replacing one oppressor for another. China's Mao, guaranteed people meager subsistence.

Socialists promising people ownership equality was false, to slip ruthless, incompetent leadership on thrones of power and luxury. In our democratic republic violent takeover of government unlikely. The same methodology of fear and oppression is applied sneaking socialism into America.

Obama and his chief of staff Rahm Emanuel declared, "never waste a good crisis" to induce fear. Then they created

crisis to frighten people prodding them toward slippery slope socialism, threshold to communism, dictatorship, fascism etc. Dismantling America a freedom at a time using these "Chicken Little" tactics "The sky is falling" fabricating fears, implement oppression, the course of all socialist dictatorships.

Many methods of instilling fear into Americans are being deployed. Nobel Economist Paul Krugman once suggested declaring alien invasion from outer space would coerce Americans accepting greater government control and spending. Following Krugman's trickery conniving socialists introduced "Climate Change" alias "Global Warming"! Casting fear of earth's destruction on the people. Sadly, "political pork packers" Pelosi/Schumer exploiting the very real Coronavirus.

Trump's Russia collusion, another such hoax to instill fear. As was Barack Obama's stalling economy lauded the new normal. That 2% growth was the maximum we could expect.

Socialists would stymie capitalist prosperity for the shared poverty of socialism, the equality they glorify. Socialist leaders live in luxury laying waste the lives of citizens beneath them.

**Gerald J. Furnkranz  
Millport**
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# Cuomo: China sending 1,000 ventilators to NY

By Jennifer Peltz, Amy Forliti and David Rising  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Saturday that China is facilitating the shipment of 1,000 ventilators to his state, as he continues to shop for more of the lifesaving devices ahead of a growing number of coronavirus patients who will need them.

The number of people infected in the U.S. has exceeded a quarter-million, with the death toll climbing past 7,000; more than 3,500 of those deaths are in New York state. Cuomo said the ventilators from China were expected to arrive Saturday. “This is a big deal and it’s going to make a significant difference for us,” Cuomo said, adding that the state of Oregon is also sending 140 ventilators to New York. Cuomo is also looking for

ventilators closer to home, and has issued an order that forces even private hospitals in the state to redistribute ventilators to the hospitals most in need. “I want this all to be over,” Cuomo said. “It’s only gone on for 30 days since our first case. It feels like an entire lifetime.” As the number of people infected has grown to more than 1.1 million worldwide, health care systems are

straining under the surge of patients. In China, air raid sirens sounded across the country and flags flew at half staff in tribute Saturday to victims of the coronavirus pandemic, including the health care “martyrs” who have died fighting to save others. With the highest number of infections in Europe and their hospitals overwhelmed, Spain and Italy struggled to protect medical

staff on the front lines of the outbreak, while 17 medics in Egypt’s main cancer hospital tested positive for the virus. Italy and Spain, with combined deaths of more than 25,000 and nearly a quarter-million infections, have reported a high percentage of infections among health care workers. Carlo Palermo, head of Italy’s hospital doctors’ union, fought tears as he told reporters in Rome of the

physical risks and psychological trauma the outbreak is causing, noting reports that two nurses had committed suicide. “It’s an indescribable condition of stress. Unbearable,” he said. “I can understand those who look death in the eye every day, who are on the front lines, who work with someone who maybe is infected, then a few days later you see him in the ICU or die.”

## COPING

From Page A1

Psychologists say uncertainty is unsettling because human nature demands predictability. People count on it in daily life, in the structures around them, to function. When they don’t have it, they can become uncomfortable and insecure. “The things we rely on for stability in our lives are all under siege,” said Melanie Greenberg, a clinical psychologist in California and

author of “The Stress-Proof Brain.” “Our brains are designed to predict what’s going to happen next and to try to prepare for it. In this case, the response isn’t that clear.” Americans know they are facing a threat, but they aren’t sure exactly how it may impact the economy, the country’s politics or society at large. Public health officials can’t say when social distancing or quarantines will end. Some people don’t know if they’ll have a job to go back to or a business to reopen. No matter how often someone washes

their hands they can’t ensure they won’t get sick. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, projected millions of Americans will contract COVID-19 and estimates released by the White House on Tuesday project as many as 240,000 Americans may die. If people continue to hunker down, the number of projected deaths fall between 100,000 and 240,000. But health officials caution the models of infection rate vary widely. They, too, are uncertain. Adding to the disquiet: people can’t use history

to ease their fears. Brains learn from past experiences to develop responses to stay safe and to avoid pain. If someone was laid off in the past but got through it, they would know job loss doesn’t have to be catastrophic. If someone got the flu but recovered, they’d know getting it again wouldn’t mean certain death. But coronavirus is novel. “Sometimes we can calm ourselves down by thinking about our history of successfully coping with something similar,” Greenberg said. “There’s nothing like that here. That’s even more unsettling.”

## O’MARA

From Page A4

Heading into this budget, I expressed hope that state leaders would enact a streamlined budget that straightforwardly focused, above all else, on the coronavirus response and meeting New York’s short-term obligations and responsibilities. Then, I believed, once we weathered this storm, we could get to work assessing the damage, determining who and what needs repair, better calculate the federal response, and have an open and full discussion on the best way to move forward for this entire state, upstate and downstate. That, in my view,

would have been common sense. It would have been responsible. It would have been fair. That, however, is not what happened at the Capitol last week and now we need to be ready for these consequences too. The new budget, particularly for upstate New York and the regions I represent, is a fiscal plan that contains too much business as usual, questionable spending and borrowing, and a non-budget-related pursuit of a so-called “progressive” political agenda that unnecessarily and unfairly produces additional fiscal and economic burdens and uncertainties for those I represent, even long after the COVID-19 response mission is complete. This is no time for

hard-edged politics and out of respect for the men and women on the front lines of this crisis, politics is not the overriding message here. There will be time for that. It’s not productive now. Bottom line: Upstate New York communities, economies, governments, schools, taxpayers, and workers do not get a fair shake. The new budget is a product of one-party, downstate Democrat control of state government, period. You can read my full reaction to it on [omara.nysenate.gov](http://omara.nysenate.gov). All of New York has one priority right now. We must get this public health emergency under control. So I close with what have become our most important two words: Thank you. A single list can never

begin to cover them all, but let’s keep foremost in our hearts and minds and prayers the health care workers and first responders, mail carriers, bus drivers and grocery store workers, transportation and sanitation crews, delivery drivers, long-haul truckers, service organizations and sewers, business leaders, bank and credit union employees, educators and librarians, farmers, government officials at every level, the men and women of our military, and an absolute army of other essential employees and, of course, incredibly selfless volunteers — throughout the public and private sectors — providing diligent public outreach, every day and every night. For all of them, let’s keep doing our part. Thank you.

## WEEKS

From Page A1

commitment from our neighbors, for our neighbors. And it’s part of a larger Unity campaign at Corning and its philanthropic arms to inspire engagement and volunteerism at all levels. Thanks to the hard work that Corning’s employees do every day, we already have the technology and resources to offer emergency supply relief. We’ve been stepping forward with products for pharmaceutical packaging to reduce hospital surge capacities, with personal protective equipment to keep frontline workers safe, and with tubes, vials, and pipettes to support increased testing efforts at the N.Y. State Laboratory

to help contain the spread of the virus. These actions and Corning’s collective response remind me how deeply grateful I am for all Corning employees and for the communities in which we live. The dedication, altruism, and innovative spirit demonstrated by all reinforce my closely held belief — that we find meaning through our relationships, our service to others, and our contributions to something that will outlast us. I hope you can see that while we’re experiencing the effects of COVID-19 individually, we are also experiencing them collectively. We will face our fears and overcome this challenge just as we have so many times before — together. We are one community, united and strong.

## FITNESS

From Page A1

In addition to fitness routines, insightful weekly wellness seminars are shared and there are many nutrition resources that keep members motivated and purposely driven, Dawson said. Some of these offerings include cooking demos and a variety of healthy recipes that include everything from breakfast, lunch and dinner to snacks and desserts. Dawson said another added benefit to this virtual program is what

Journey 333 calls the “Medical Corner,” where members can listen to local doctors as they share their perspectives on what can be done to protect your health. Journey 333 has New York locations in Horseheads, Corning, and Ithaca, a Pennsylvania location in Sayre, and a location in Columbia City, Indiana, Dawson said. Each franchise offers a modern fitness studio that helps members reach and maintain peak physical condition while living a healthy lifestyle. More information on Journey 333 is available at: <https://www.journeyfitness333.com>.



If you are caring for a loved one with memory loss or dementia, call the 24/7 Helpline to learn about care options, receive around-the-clock crisis assistance, and get connected to support services in your area:

1-800-272-3900



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**Today**  
Mostly cloudy, chance of showers  
High | 61 Low | 36

**Monday** Sunny, with chance of late showers  
High | 62 Low | 40

**Tuesday** M. cloudy, chance of showers  
High | 61 Low | 41

**Wednesday** Cloudy, showers  
High | 65 Low | 40

**Thursday** Cloudy, showers  
High | 59 Low | 35

**Pressure**  
High Low

**Fronts**  
Cold Warm Stationary

**MOON PHASES**  
First Full Last New  
APRIL 30 APR. 7 APR. 14 APR. 22

**SUNRISE | SUNSET**  
Sunrise today 6:43 a.m.  
Sunset today 7:39 p.m.  
Sunrise Monday 6:41 a.m.  
Sunset Monday 7:40 p.m.