

## UPDATE FROM NORTH ELBA SUPERVISOR JAY RAND

August 16, 2020

Dear Citizens of North Elba,

We have all been treated to another couple of weeks of **great summer weather**. Main Street continues to bustle with energy seven days a week with noticeable waiting lines at restaurants and busy stores. Trailheads are jammed with hikers, bike shops with record number of sales, and boats galore on our lakes. Although Labor Day is just a couple of weeks down the road expectations are high that it will be a strong fall. That being said, we can't let our guard down and must be persistent in maintaining basic protocols involving wearing masks appropriately, social distancing, sanitizing frequently and observing quarantine directives, etc. As you may have read in today's news, spikes are occurring across Europe and shut downs are reoccurring. Be safe, be smart, follow protocol and encourage others to do so.

On behalf of the North Elba Town Board, I would like to congratulate and welcome the new members of the **Olympic Regional Development Authority Board** (ORDA). Board Chairperson, Kelley Cummings and other Governor Cuomo nominees recently appointed by the State Senate: Senator Betty Little, Elinor Tatum, Diane Monroe and Thomas Keegan. They will join our Town of North Elba representatives: Art Lussi, Bill Beaney and Andrew Lack.

In preparation for the **2023 Winter (FISU) World University Games** major improvements are presently taking place at the venues in order to stay in compliance with International Standards and to keep venues financially stable. We applaud the efforts of the ORDA Board and staff and look forward to working with this very talented Board of Directors and Executive Director Mike Pratt.

The **North Elba Town Board** held its monthly August meeting this past week and **passed two very significant local laws** that will enable exciting and beneficial projects to take another step forward. The basics of the local laws are:

### **Local Law # 2**

**Section 1** – Change of zoning designation of the former Cell Science Center Property from Gateway Corridor District to Planned Development, which will provide the means to develop the property accordingly. The proposed development, The Peaks, will include 376 units, including 271 rental units. 10% of the total project units (37) are restricted to persons/families whose gross annual income does not exceed 120% of the Essex County median income (AMI). These units will be rented to full time residents or to those that will be full time residents within the guidelines of applicable laws. Six month leases are required for all rental units and short term rentals (STRs) are strictly forbidden.

Additional amenities such as indoor training facilities and swimming pool are part of the plan along with recreational outdoor walking paths.

The plan is to first use the facility to accommodate athletes and officials participating in the 2023 World University Games (FISU) and then be converted into residential housing.

The next step for this project is to go before the Review Board for site plan approval.

**Section 2 – Short Term Rental Units** located within the town of North Elba and outside the corporate limits of the Village of Lake Placid may now be rented up to **120 days** in a calendar year. This was increased from 90 days as

the majority of the board feels most town properties differ than the village in regard to lot size, remoteness, etc. The common neighbor complaints of noise and parking are much less frequent in the town. The board plans to look into additional restrictions in denser neighborhoods and broader protections for the community at large.

**Local Law # 3 – Lands on Wesvalley Road** (donated by the Lussi Family) **were reclassified from Village Center to Planned Development** in facilitate a housing development that will provide residential rental accommodations for families having incomes varying between 50% and 60% of area median income for Essex County adjusted for family size (AMI).

**MacKenzie Overlook** is planned to be an affordable residential building with 60 dwelling units available in order to mitigate workforce housing shortages. The project is named after Ron MacKenzie. Ron was known for his many contributions to Lake Placid’s Olympic legacy. He worked hard for many years to bring the winter games to Lake Placid for the first time in 1932. He was also a driving force in the planning and organizing of the Winter Olympics in 1980. He was a certified ski-jumping judge and an instructor of Nordic skiing and a member of the United States Ski Hall of Fame. He helped design Whiteface Mountain as well as cross-country trails and biathlon trails. It’s an honor to name this community asset after Mr. MacKenzie.

The next step for this project is to go before the Review Board for site plan approval.

The North Elba Town Board is committed to **long term sustainability of affordable community housing**. Efforts are underway to create and fund the position of Housing Coordinator to help address the growing problem of housing shortages and affordability.

A fundraiser for the **Shipman Youth Center** is being planned by local supporters including Youth Center Board Member Dimitri Feld for Labor Day weekend. Drive-in movies are planned be shown on the evenings of September 4-6 at the North Elba Horse Show grounds. More information will be forthcoming through and the Shipman Youth Center.

Positive news from Governor Cuomo: **bowling alleys** allowed to reopen Monday! Come out and safely support Bowl Winkles!

Fingers crossed for **gym status** announcement on Monday!

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 Sherriff’s Department, and then a Notice of Violation is served to the responsible person or business by the Police or Building Code’s office.

**Adirondack Health Testing Information and Appointments (518-897-2462)**

**Testing** is still a critical part of the requirements to keep us moving forward. Visit <https://www.adirondackhealth.org/covid-testing> for the most up to date hours and locations for testing.

Stay up to date on data for the North Country Region at <https://forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-region-dashboard>.

**Local Positive COVID-19 Data:**

	<b>Essex County</b>	<b>North Elba</b>
July 1, 2020	59	9

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.**