



BOROUGH OF PEAPACK AND GLADSTONE

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April 7, 2020

Dear Residents,

This will be an update from an earlier update. Unfortunately, the Borough has just under 20 cases of COVID-19 with one fatality. As the virus infects more and more people we will have more residents being affected. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of the person who sadly passed away.

I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for everyone to practice personal hygiene and social distancing. Continue to wash your hands frequently for a minimum of 20 seconds with warm soap and water. Keep a minimum of 6 feet apart where ever you are and keep gatherings to no more than 10 people. Of course, it is safe to be outside, actually it is very healthy for all of us to get out of our houses and enjoy fresh air and some exercise, but limit your contacts and keep your distance.

With the Governor closing all State and County Parks at 8:00pm tonight by Executive Order #118 I am sure this will mean our Borough Parks will have in increase in use. It is IMPERATIVE that people rigorously self-enforce social distancing and group contact while using our parks. By all means enjoy them, but do not ruin it for everyone by thinking being outside is ok to be close to others.

The Borough website (www.peapackgladstone.org) has a lot of current information relating to COVID-19. Keep checking it for updates and sign up for PG Notify so you can receive new information as it is posted.

With various grants and loans being offered to small businesses and the income tax filing deadlines being moved to July everyone needs to be aware there are many scams being committed either by phone calls, emails or even regular mail. If you are unsure if the request is legitimate contact the actual government agency who appears to be sending out the information.

Borough Hall continues to be closed to the public, but our staff is still working while working split shifts. Please continue to contact our staff either by phone or email should you need assistance with any matters. I ask that you not deposit cash in the drop box located by the entrance to Police Headquarters. It is only for checks or other paperwork and is checked regularly.

Our Public Works employees are also working split shifts to ensure their health and safety. They are continuing their normal duties to keep our roads and Borough properties in safe condition.

The Fire Department and Rescue Squad, manned entirely by dedicated volunteers are fully operational. When they respond to calls for help in the community, they will be asking a lot of questions about your medical conditions and of course will be wearing personal protective gear (PPE) for their safety as well as yours.

The Police Department is currently at full staffing and working their normal shift rotations. The officers like the Fire Department and Rescue Squad will be wearing PPE when interacting with the public.

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has been working as the clearing house for the municipal departments in tracking the use of PPE and is in constant contact with Somerset County OEM to obtain more protective equipment to supplement what the Borough is obtaining through normal supply channels. OEM recently assisted Matheny in obtaining badly needed supplies of PPE. This also was done in concert with County and State OEM. They are also overseeing the local volunteers who have set up a food pantry to supply food to needy families in town.

Businesses are open in town. Our restaurants are continuing their takeout menus and can use your support by sampling their tasty meals.

We have a long way to go before our lives return to normal. In order to make the transition back to normal we all have to continue to work together.

Stay well and remember to take care of yourself, your family and neighbors,

Gregory Skinner
Mayor