



BOROUGH OF NORWOOD

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James P. Barsa
Mayor
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May 12, 2021

Dear Residents,

Just yesterday I received an update on the paving of Blanch Avenue from the Bergen County Director of Planning and Engineering. About one month from now we should expect to see work begin for the construction and draining improvement followed by the paving of Blanch Avenue. I am hopeful that everything will continue to run smoothly once the project starts.

In regards to the Blanch Avenue bridge, the required DEP land use permits and Watershed Property Review Board approvals have been obtained. The bridge design is now with the NJDOT Structural/Bridge Department, who will review and approve the design. We are hopeful that the design will be approved in the next few weeks and that will then allow the project to go out for bid. The one condition of DEP approval was that there can be no work between May 1st and July 31st.

I had noticed yesterday that Tilcon was out measuring the entire length of Livingston Street. Paving will begin sometime in the near future. Once I have more information on these projects, I will pass it along.

Starting in June, all borough meetings will be held in person. Those who do not feel comfortable need not return to the dais until they are ready, but it is my intention to bring the borough back to our normal operating procedures as soon as possible. All meetings will continue to be accessible on Zoom for our residents.

Fireworks

This is the time of year when we start planning our annual July 4th fireworks display and with the announcement of the most recent CDC guidelines, advising that as of May 19th there will no longer be a limit on the number of people that can gather together outdoors, the fireworks are the perfect way to officially welcome everyone back together. With the full support of our Police Chief, who assured me that he can run the event and follow any outstanding Executive Orders, I feel this will be another example of how Norwood is here supporting our residents, raising spirits and showing community support and togetherness.

At the beginning of the pandemic, many borough halls completely shut down. Some still are. Unlike those other boroughs in our area, we never truly closed. Though we did close borough hall for about 3 months to the residents, it was to keep our employees safe. All departments were always fully staffed and continued to provide our residents with excellent service.

We were the only borough to hold our annual town day celebration and that was a great success. We made changes to follow all the safety guidelines and mandates and it was still a great time had by all who chose to attend.

We made the right choice when we decided to go ahead and allow our fall sports to have a season. The safety of our children was our number one priority and everyone involved did an excellent job following all protocols. The children were able to get outside and play with their friends safely which was exactly what they needed at that time.

Now, as restrictions are being lifted and families and friends can once more gather together, it is my hope that Norwood will lead the way again, by continuing with our annual fireworks display.

The fireworks belong to you, our residents. This is an annual celebration that our residents look forward to and far be it from us to stand in your way.

My goal is to continue to move Norwood in the right direction. 42% of our residents are fully vaccinated, 52% of our residents have had their first dose. Each day we are getting closer and closer to fully reopening. We have weathered this storm together, as a community, from the beginning and we should commemorate the clearing of the storm together as well. If you feel comfortable, please come join us for our fireworks celebration, and let's move forward together.

Department of Public Works

* The BCUA is hosting a Household Hazardous Waste collection on Saturday May 15th, from 9am-3pm, at Campgaw Mountain Reservation.

* The borough will be holding our annual shredding event on Saturday May 22nd, from 9am-1pm. Residents are limited to 4 bags/boxes. The shredding will take place in the DPW parking lot.

Mayors Wellness/Healthy Norwood

* Our next Mayors Wellness event will be this Sunday at Kennedy Field. Join me at 10am as trainers from Impact Zone run a series of exercises that are suitable for all levels of athletic ability. Whether you are just starting out or are at a pro level, this is going to be a fun way to try a mini boot camp. This, like all of our events, will be family friendly.

Board of Health

* New Bridge Medical Center will be offering 5 mobile sites that offer testing and vaccinations in the May. The closest site to Norwood will be located at Pascack Brook Park in Emerson on Tuesday May 25th. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be given between 1pm-4pm, there will be no testing available at this location. You can find information on the other locations on the New Bridge Medical Center website.

* We have been contacted by Holy Name Hospital and we will be scheduling a pop-up vaccination site for our residents here in Norwood sometime in the very near future. Once more information is available it will be shared with you.

Recreation

* The Norwood Summer Basketball League has opened their registration. The link to register and all information can be found on our website and the recreations Facebook page.

Sincerely,

James P. Barsa
Mayor

Links

Borough of Norwood Website – www.norwoodboro.org

Borough of Norwood Facebook – Norwood Boro

Norwood DPW Facebook – Norwood NJ DPW

Interstate Waste Service – www.interstatewaste.com

Nixle – www.nixle.com

Norwood Police Department – www.norwoodpd.org

Norwood Police Department Facebook – Norwood Police Department, NJ

Bergen County Utilities Authority – www.bcu.org

Borough Administrator, Jordan Padovano – Jpadovano@norwoodboro.org

Deputy Clerk, Rick Buginsky – Rbuginsky@norwoodboro.org

Recreation Secretary & Court Administrator, Lindsay Volpitta – Lvolpitta@norwoodboro.org

Pay Your Ticket Online – www.njmcdirect.com

Norwood E-Code – www.ecode360.com/NO1736

Construction Office Secretary, Laurie Engel – Lengel@norwoodboro.org

Board of Health Secretary, Debbie Whalen – Dwhalen@norwoodboro.org

Tax & Finance Clerk, Lori Gonzalez – lgonzalez@norwoodboro.org

Norwood Swim Club Facebook – Norwood Swim Club

Norwood Swim Club Email - nscwhalers@gmail.com

COVID Testing Appointment Website - <https://www.research.net/r/BNBMCCovid>

Vaccination Information Website – <https://linktr.ee/C19VaxxUpdates>

Twitter Vaccination Alerts – @C19VaxxUpdates