

- Today, the State’s COVID-19 website launched a new contact tracing dashboard, allowing residents to monitor progress of New Jersey’s contact tracing efforts. The Governor noted that 45% of those who have tested positive for coronavirus and answered a call from contact tracers refused to provide any contact information, which impedes their efforts to protect public health. For more information about the contact tracing dashboard, visit <https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20200807b.shtml>.
- The New Jersey Department of Education has released their FAQ regarding school openings: <https://nj.gov/education/reopening/faqs/index.shtml>.

LOCAL UPDATES

Here is the latest storm related information from Chief Battiloro about roadways. The following roadways are impassable at this time:

Boynton Avenue (2000 block to Clark Township line) – tree(s) & wire(s) down
 Colonial Avenue (500 BLOCK) – tree(s) and wire(s) down
 Girard Avenue (600 block) – tree(s) & wire(s) down
 Tice Place (1000 block) – tree(s) down/about to fall
 Wychwood Road (300 block) – tree(s) & wire(s) down

The following roadways were previously impassable, but are now passable:

- ✓ Boynton Avenue (1600 block)
- ✓ Carleton Road (800 block)
- ✓ Central Avenue (1000 block)
- ✓ Central Avenue (1200 block)
- ✓ Coolidge Street (900 block)
- ✓ East Broad Street (700 block)
- ✓ East Broad Street (1000 block)
- ✓ East Dudley Avenue (100 block)
- ✓ Edgar Road (400 block)
- ✓ Edgar Road (500 block)
- ✓ Elmer Street (100 block)
- ✓ Fairacres Avenue (800 block)
- ✓ Golf Edge (200 block)
- ✓ Kimball Avenue (200 block)
- ✓ Kimball Avenue (900 block)
- ✓ Maple Street (600 block)
- ✓ Otisco Drive (400 block)
- ✓ Roger Avenue (100 block)
- ✓ Shadowlawn Drive (800 block)
- ✓ Springfield Avenue (500 block)
- ✓ Stirling Place (600 block)
- ✓ Stoneleigh Park

- ✓Talcott Road (800 block)
- ✓Willow Grove Road (800 block)
- ✓Woodbrook Circle (40 block)
- ✓Woodmere Drive (900 block)
- ✓Wyandotte Trail (1000 block)

Traffic lights: All traffic lights are fully functioning. None are operating on emergency power at this time.

Officers are assigned to the following locations to ensure the safety of these sites:

Birch Place – 400 block (1 Officer) – tree(s) & wire(s) down (PSE&G is on the scene)

- Power Outages: In terms of power outages, as of 5:30PM, there are still 250 households without power, representing about 2% of PSE&G's customers in Westfield.
- Storm Debris: To reconfirm, the Town will be collecting storm debris for Town trees only. We will not be doing street-by-street curbside storm debris pick-up, which is a service that the Town has rarely provided and in only the severest of emergencies. Most recently, in March 2018, debris was picked up after three nor'easters occurred in three weeks which, combined, caused the most local damage since Hurricane Sandy, resulted in 3,000 911 calls and 40 closed streets due to downed trees and wires. You may remember that it took the DPW two months to pick up the debris, exacerbated by landscapers who dumped their non-storm debris in the streets, thereby prolonging the process. As a result, any ongoing Town maintenance work was neglected or deferred. In this storm's case, it was determined that the DPW would not be able to pivot from emergency tree work to storm pick-up for at least two weeks, and that the same situation would reoccur. That being said, out of concern for seniors who are unable to remove their own debris, Lifelong Westfield will be organizing volunteers to remove storm debris for seniors who need assistance on Tuesday of next week. Any senior requesting assistance should email westfieldnjseniors@gmail.com
- We have several great events in Town this weekend. Don't miss Open Quimby with outdoor dining and fitness programs (details at westfieldtoday.com); the Westfield Farmers Market; and the Public Art Stroll from 11:30 -1:30 tomorrow to meet the artists behind the beautiful butterfly installations in the Art Takes Flight exhibit (details at westfieldnj.gov/arttakesflight). In addition, registration opens at noon on Monday for next Thursday's outdoor screening of Coco as part of the Westfield 300 Summer Movie Series.
- Thanks to Council members Mike Dardia, David Contract, and Scott Katz for forming the Bike Safety Task Force. Starting this weekend, their "Caught Wearing a Helmet" campaign kicks off, where cyclists wearing helmets are stopped by the program's ambassadors and rewarded with coupons for free gift items. Special thanks to the local businesses who are making generous donations to support this program -- Jay's Cycle Center, Outta Hand Pizza, Manhattan Bagel, and Amoco. Those "caught" with helmets can upload their photos to our website and be entered for a chance to win a free bike. For more information, and to see the bike safety videos made by student participants Murray Topilow and Joseph Slingerland, visit westfieldnj.gov/caughtwearingahelmet.

- The latest class to be inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame includes not one, but two Westfield natives -- Charles Addams and Dr. Virginia Apgar, both named posthumous honorees. It's very fitting that, during a year when we celebrate the milestone of Westfield's 300th anniversary and our amazing history, we see two of our most notable former residents recognized for their contributions. To see the full list of this year's honorees, visit <https://njhalloffame.org/hall-of-famers/2019-2020-inductees/>.
- A final reminder that the last day of this quarter's property tax grace period to pay without penalty is Monday, August 10. Thanks to everyone who has paid promptly. In addition to using the mail or paying online, we have drop boxes at Town Hall inside the Police Department vestibule and in the rear parking lot.
- Lastly, as I indicated earlier this week, we will be introducing amendments to the Historic Preservation ordinance at Tuesday's Town Council meeting. These changes, which were recommended by the Historic Preservation Commission and approved by the Council's bipartisan Code Review & Town Property Committee this week, are in response to residents' feedback and intended to be improvements to address some of the key areas of concern. Here is an overview of the proposed changes:
 - An amendment to indicate that, to the maximum extent feasible, at least one member of the HPC should own a property in a designated historic district or a designated historic landmark.
 - An amendment to make more explicit that minor work being undertaken by property owners of historically designated properties need not go through the formal certificate of review process.
 - Amendments relating to demolition review for historic structures:
 - To clarify that the review process only applies to demolition applications for the removal, destruction or demolition of more than 75% of the applicable structure or building, and/or more than 25% of the street facing façade;
 - To make clear that the special historic review process for demolitions is a zoning review that precedes other general demolition requirements;
 - To allow for informal HPC review of pre-1930 structures and those identified in the Historic Preservation Plan Element;
 - To shorten the timeframe for special historic review of demolition applications; and
 - To clarify that, even if a pre-1930 home meets the historic designation criteria, the HPC may recommend, but is not required to recommend, that the home be designated as historic.

These proposed changes will be presented as a resolution for the full Council to vote on at Tuesday's meeting, with the final vote on the adoption of the ordinance scheduled for September 8. We will also be amending the demolition section of the Town Code so that it is consistent with the HPC ordinance. And, as I previously mentioned, we are finalizing plans to adopt the HPC's recommendation to establish historically designated homes/districts as areas in need of rehabilitation which would permit five-year tax abatements on improvements -- similar to the incentivizing approach we approved for our downtown businesses. Our Town Planner is in the process of conducting a study to identify the best path forward for this process, which we hope to be able to communicate at the September 8 meeting.

Tuesday's meeting will include a presentation by HPC Chair and Town Historian Robert Wendel, as well as a presentation by our redevelopment firm, Topology, regarding designation of the Lord & Taylor lots and the Rialto property as areas in need of redevelopment. As always, I encourage everyone to attend and participate. The full agenda for the meeting will be posted to our website over the weekend.

Thank you for your ongoing engagement -- have a great weekend!