

Letter from the Mayor

4-23-20

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter on Thursday, a day when we used to get local news from the *Hawthorne Press*. *Tap into Hawthorne*, an internet paper, helps fill that void. In addition, Hawthorne's website www.hawthornenj.org has a *News* section designed to keep you updated on official Hawthorne news. Also important is our *Nixle* alert system put into place after Superstorm Sandy to alert residents through text and emails of important Borough news. Information on how to sign up for this free service can be found on our website as well.

The number of confirmed cases as of this afternoon is 314; our active number in Hawthorne is 114. Unfortunately our confirmed continues to rise. It is imperative that you take this virus seriously and stay at home, social distance, and wear a mask when out.

Monday evening the Council will hold a special meeting to lower the interest rate for late May tax payments from May 11th until June 30th to effectively 0%. This is being done to help those people and businesses that have suffered due to the virus protocols. If you can afford to make your payments when due, I implore you to do so. I made my May 1st tax payment yesterday over a week early because I could afford to. The biggest portion of our budget is for salaries and the largest portion goes to pay our police officers. In addition we must pay the School and County taxes due so that they can meet their obligations. For those of you that want to delay payment to earn interest on your money, you most likely will earn less than a dollar in interest given current interest rates. We are only one of two or three

municipalities in Passaic County to do this. The State has urged us not to lower interest rates. I am proposing this action to the Council because I believe the majority will pay taxes when they are due.

We are still working at the Municipal Building even though the building is closed to the public. The phones and emails are being answered and work is getting done.

There is still a great unease amongst us in Hawthorne. Some people are panicked and scared but we must remain calm. Follow the advice that we are bombarded with about staying home, maintaining social distance, washing your hands, and wearing a mask outside. Don't panic-buy supplies or groceries.

Speaking of food, the Borough maintains a non-perishable food pantry. It is available for any resident in need. Please call my office at 973-427-1168 for more information. I continue to urge you to support our restaurants by purchasing a gift card or ordering take out.

If you have problems or concerns, please email me at rgoldberg@hawthornenj.org or call my office at 973-427-1168.

Sincerely,

Mayor Richard S. Goldberg