



December 4, 2020

Good afternoon. I'd like to thank everyone who participated in the festive holiday float that toured Rutherford last weekend. We wish that it had been able to visit every street in town but unfortunately time constraints make it difficult to accomplish that. A huge thanks to the Rutherford Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Departments as well as the Police Department, without whose help these kinds of events would not be possible. These departments will again help out on December 13th when we honor the RHS boys soccer team for winning the state championship with a drive-by caravan. I'd like to thank my colleague Tom Mullahey for organizing this caravan with the help of the High School Athletic Director David Frazier.

On Saturday, December 12th, the Rutherford Fire Department will take its annual tour with Santa throughout town during the day. This annual event operates independently of the Borough and is hosted solely by the Fire Department. Please direct any questions to firepersonnel@rutherfordboronj.com. For families of uniquely abled individuals we hope this advance notice will allow you to prepare for these festive experiences across the Borough.

Alternative celebrations such as caravans are important as COVID numbers continue to climb. Right now they're the safest way for our community to celebrate special events. We appreciate your cooperation with social distancing and mask wearing in Rutherford in order to keep the community as safe and healthy as possible. Unfortunately as the Governor noted in Monday's press conference, 70% of people are refusing to cooperate with contact tracers. We really need everyone in our community to help with the Health Department's efforts.

Former Fire Chief Thomas Twist, Jr., who passed recently from COVID, will be recognized by Governor Murphy during his press conference on Monday, December 6. The Governor chose Mr. Twist because of his extraordinary service to the Rutherford community. The Borough will share the video after the press conference.

Today the Health Department is reporting 24 new COVID positive cases in Rutherford. The Borough continues to [post daily positive cases on the website which can be found on the home page under COVID Information](#). Recently the CDC released guidance with options to shorten the COVID-19 quarantine time period. However, the Rutherford Health Department would like us to remind you that the New Jersey Department of Health continues to recommend quarantine for 14 days where feasible to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 and particularly for persons who live with or care for persons at high risk of severe complications for COVID-19 (older adults, persons with underlying conditions or obesity, and pregnant women).

Thank you to the Bergen County Executive, Freeholder Board and the Food Security Task Force for providing our 55 Kip Center with 70 5 lb bags of yams. Many seniors across Rutherford and South Bergen County depend on the charitable donations of food and services provided through our amazing Kip Center. Special thanks to Tracy Zur and Kip Center Director Cathy Baviello for securing this donation and distributing to those in need.

We appreciate your cooperation with these updated guidelines. We understand that these are difficult and frustrating times. Remember that our main goal as always is to keep our community safe. After today we will bring you weekly statements for the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,
Councilwoman
Stephanie McGowan