



November 25, 2020

Good afternoon. As COVID cases continue to climb in Rutherford I'd like to take this opportunity to remind our residents to proceed with extreme caution as we enter the holiday season.

As we've tried to do throughout the year, the Borough is working on creative ways to celebrate the holiday season. In lieu of our annual parade, a festive holiday float will drive around town between 2-6pm Saturday afternoon. Be on the lookout for Santa Claus accompanied by live music!

We will also light the tree in front of the Library on Saturday, which will be recorded and posted on our website and social media. We are asking residents to not gather for the lighting but instead to visit it over the holiday season and plan to patronize our local businesses while doing so. In order to promote Small Business Saturday, Goffins has generously purchased insulated take-out bags and will be handing them out beginning Friday. Mayor Nunziato has requested restaurants provide take-out menus which will be included in the take-out bags.

Mayor Nunziato, my Council colleagues and I would like to offer our sincerest condolences to the Twist Family. Our Rutherford family has lost Former Fire Chief Thomas M. Twist Jr. Chief Twist was member of Engine Company #4 and was appointed to the Rutherford Fire Department on October 18, 1966. He was selected by the Rutherford Irish American Association as Firefighter of the year for the Associations inaugural parade in 2017. He was an Exempt Rutherford Fireman, a Life Member of the NJ State Fireman's Association and South Bergen Mutual Aid Chiefs Association. Thomas also served our community on the Borough's Civil Rights Commission and most recently as a School Crossing Guard who was on his post at Park and Donaldson Avenues as recently as four weeks ago.

As the holidays approach, it is important that we put our health as well as the health of our friends and family first. Let us distance ourselves this year so that next year all our loved ones will be at the table.

Additionally, I'd like to repeat the request from Superintendent Hurley to families who are choosing to travel for Thanksgiving to please alert their school of their quarantine status. To Quote Mr. Hurley, "We *really* are One Rutherford. The actions of a few have the potential to affect us all, and in devastating ways."

Happy Thanksgiving and please be safe.

Sincerely, Councilman Ray Guzman