

Township of West Caldwell

Mayor Tempesta's Message of April 24, 2020

Hello. This is West Caldwell Mayor Joe Tempesta with an update on the coronavirus outbreak for our community.

Please understand that the numbers I am about to report to you are constantly changing and are checked for accuracy. The Health Care Industry is finally able to determine that some reported Covid-19 deaths that were reported as Covid related are now being updated for accuracy and may be resulting in those deaths as being caused by other issues unrelated to the corona virus.

Please be advised the West Caldwell Health Department has informed us there are 94 confirmed cases of coronavirus in the West Caldwell general population and we have had 5 citizens pass away from the virus. Of the 94 cases 63 are open and current cases. Of the 63, 8 are hospitalized and 55 are home quarantined. Thankfully and some good news we have had 26 cases closed whereby these citizens are recovered and are no longer quarantined. We ask that you pray for those who have the virus and to pray for those families that have lost their loved ones.

In our two skilled nursing facilities combined we have an additional 106 cases and tragically we report 29 deaths. In Crane's Mill we have 9 Covid-19 cases in the memory care an assisted living units, and 3 reported deaths. In the Skilled Nursing and sub-acute section of Crane's Mill, we have 18 current cases of Covid-19 and 9 reported deaths. In the Hackensack Meridian Health WC Care Center, we report 79 cases of Covid-19. Tragically we report 17 deaths at the facility. Again, we ask that you pray for those who have the virus and to pray for those families that have lost their loved ones.

We ask all Residents to continue to practice social distancing and it is very important that you all adhere to the most recent rules set by the Governor which includes the wearing of masks while shopping in our supermarkets, pharmacies etc. and please remember to stay home if you are sick. We also ask that all residents who wish to express their appreciation of our first responders, please at 7:00 p.m. every evening come out your front door and either give a round of applause or thank the responders in your own way and express your appreciation for their bravery and service for being on the front line. This will coincide with our daily Fire Horn test each evening and although every area of town may not hear the Fire Horn this will take place each evening at 7:00 p.m. until further notice.

We ask that you continue to patronize our local businesses by using technology to make your purchases on line as well patronize our restaurants by using their takeout and delivery services.

Again I especially ask you to remember those who have passed away and I ask that you remember

them and pray for their families. Let us always remember those who passed with the dignity and respect they deserve.

For additional information call the NJ COVID-19 Information Public Call Center at 1-800-962-1253 or to receive live text assistance, residents can text their zip code to 898-211.

The NJ Department of Human Services operates a toll free “warm line” which is a resource for people seeking mental health services. (877) 294-HELP (4357).

Please be safe, be smart, and be West Caldwell. Thank you.