



# BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

PAUL M. CARELLI

MAYOR

91 NEWARK POMPTON TURNPIKE  
RIVERDALE, N.J. 07457

May 1, 2020

Dear Riverdale Resident,

Yesterday, Governor Murphy announced the opening of all State parks as of Saturday, May 2, 2020. The parks in Morris County will also be opening subject to the same limitations as outlined in the Governor's Executive Order. These limitations include: no organized activities, no sports activities, no picnic activities, parking limited to 50% of the available spaces, and social distancing must be maintained with cloth face coverings recommended. In addition, the following will remain closed: all playgrounds, ballfields, pavilions, restrooms and indoor facilities. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of the parks while keeping social distance.

Second Quarter real estate taxes are due May 1st, with a grace period ending on May 11th. This week the Governor issued an Executive Order allowing municipalities the option of extending the grace period until June 1, 2020. However, the Executive Order failed to grant municipalities an extension of the time to pay County and School taxes.

Here in Riverdale only **35%** of your real estate taxes are for municipal services. The remaining **65%** of your real estate tax bill by statute must be paid to Morris County and the School District **in full by May 15th**. If we were to extend the grace period, we would not have funds available to pay the County, the School District or our municipal obligations including the salaries of our police officers and other municipal employees. If this extension were granted, Riverdale would have to borrow funds to meet these obligations. These additional borrowing costs would result in tax increases, which no one wants.

A proposed Resolution was presented to the state which would allow extensions only to persons directly affected by the pandemic and who pay their taxes directly. Taxes escrowed by mortgage companies would not receive an extension. The state rejected the proposal stating that extensions must be afforded to every taxpayer regardless of their situation. As a result, Riverdale will not be extending the grace period past May 11th.

As we enter May, I can report that the Borough of Riverdale has had 30 positive cases. The rate has been slowing down and our efforts are working. Keep up the good work! We are now in the early planning stages of how and when to start opening up the Borough. I will keep you posted.

Our Borough Offices will continue to be closed until further notice. Essential services, including garbage collection, will continue. Remember the main lobby is open with our secure dropbox for delivering tax, water and sewer payments. Payment can also be made online or mailed to the Borough. Our next Mayor and Council meeting will once again be done via Zoom video conference on Wednesday, May 13, 2020. Check the website at [www.riverdalenj.gov](http://www.riverdalenj.gov) for instructions on how to join.

Please refer to the Riverdale Borough web site at [www.riverdalenj.gov.com](http://www.riverdalenj.gov.com) and the Riverdale Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/RiverdaleNewJersey/> for updated information.

Thank you and be safe!  
**Mayor Paul M. Carelli**

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