

Dear Haworth Neighbor:

We start this week's Update with sad news – two of our Haworth neighbors and friends passed yesterday from complications arising from the virus:

Jack Ferber, a long-time Haworth resident, community leader, social activist, and active volunteer – always ready to lend a hand when needed, died Thursday at Englewood Hospital after waging a courageous battle with the virus. He loved Haworth, his family, and his friends – he will be missed.

Cynthia Bernstein, a presence in Haworth for decades passed quietly on Thursday. A musician and music teacher, she was known for big musical parties. She was active in Woman's Club and, after her retirement, with Haworth Seniors. Generations of students and friends will miss her.

We also extend our sympathy and condolences to the parents, family and friends of the young man from Demarest who took his own life at the railroad tracks Wednesday morning. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who are moved by this tragic event.

As of 8:00 pm Thursday evening, there have been a total of 34 confirmed cases in Haworth since the onset of the pandemic – an increase of 3 since last week. While this is the lowest week-to-week increase in a month, the coming weeks are particularly important if we are to bring the occurrence of new cases further down. It is May – the weather is warm – the sun shining – the temptation to join with friends to celebrate the turning of the seasons is high – but the virus is still active! More than ever, we must observe social distance, even within a group of friends; we should continue to wear those annoying masks – we do this for our friends and neighbors and ourselves.

### **SUMMARY THOUGHTS:**

We are doing well but we must continue to support and encourage each other to have patience, persistence, and discipline. Stay home – stay well – stay safe – Haworth needs you!

### **FROM THE HAWORTH HOPE FUND:**

The events of this past week remind us of how stressful these times are. Life is hard under the best, "most normal" circumstances and the circumstances in which we find ourselves are extraordinary -- stressful, isolating, disconcerting, frustrating. The Haworth Hope Fund is here for you and your loved ones. No questions asked. Please share our contact info ([Haworthhopefund@gmail.com](mailto:Haworthhopefund@gmail.com)) with anyone who you're concerned may need assistance.

### **IN CASE OF A EMERGENCY:**

If you or a loved one is experiencing a mental health crisis, call 911 or 201.262.HELP (4357) <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/>.

Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255

## **RESOURCES:**

- Crisis Text Line: text "START" TO 741-741
- West Bergen Mental Healthcare Inc.: <http://www.westbergen.org> or call 201.986.5000
- CarePlus NJ: [www.CarePlusNJ.org](http://www.CarePlusNJ.org) or call 201.485.7172
- NJ Hope Line: <http://www.njhopeline.com> or call 201.385.4400
- Vantage Health Center: <http://www.vantagenj.com> or call 855.654.6735
- The Trevor Project (24/7 LGBT crisis intervention): 866.488.7386
- NJ Hopeline Peer Support and Suicide Prevention Hotline (24hr. community support) call 855.654.6735
- Grief Speaks <http://www.griefspeaks.com/>
- Online Screenings: <http://screening.mentalhealthscreening.org/bergen>

For additional resources, please visit our [website](#) to be linked to resources provided by Michele Hart-Loughlin, Division Director, Division of Mental Health Services, Bergen County Department of Health Services.

## **SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS:**

The Superintendent, Dr. Hughes, and the Haworth School Community have offered their services for those in need of counseling. Dr. Nadine O'Reilly is available to provide assistance to those that need it. She can be reached at [oreillyn@nvnet.org](mailto:oreillyn@nvnet.org).

Dr. Hughes also shared a helpful website, <https://www.randomactsofkindness.org>, for those in our community feeling overwhelmed and stressed. We need to continue to be kind to ourselves and others.

Please click here [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#) to access the emails sent by NVD superintendent, James Santana, which includes their response to the students of NVD and resources available for their use.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM BOROUGH DEPARTMENTS:**

### **MESSAGE FROM THE POLICE COMMISSIONER:**

As noted above by the Mayor, with the warmer and more reliable weather approaching and the accompanying increasing desire to be outdoors, a friendly reminder to continue the diligent observance of social distancing policy and Borough park closures for the benefit of all residents.

The suicide earlier this week of a 16 year-old NVD student on the railroad tracks running through Haworth has deeply impacted our entire community. The Haworth police officers on duty handled the event with professionalism and compassion. One of our officers was part of the small group of law enforcement personnel that personally notified the parents of the child and I cannot imagine a more difficult part of their job.

It is easy to view the police force as the guys in uniform who keep us safe; however, I think it is important to keep in mind that they are also area residents with families and this part of their job cannot be easy. So when you see one of our officers around town, stop and say hi, ask them how they are doing. I can assure you it will be greatly appreciated.

### **FROM THE CHIEF:**

Chief Gracey again wants to stress the importance for drivers to watch their speed and be aware of their surroundings so as to avoid hazardous situations. Also, a reminder that a birthday “lights and sirens” drive-by for our residents 10 years old and under can be arranged by emailing the Chief at [mgracey@haworthnj.org](mailto:mgracey@haworthnj.org). Lastly, residents can reach the police department at any time via the Bergen County Dispatch Center in Mahwah by calling 201-384-1900. The dispatchers in Mahwah will promptly relay your call to our officers.

### **EXECUTIVE ORDER REGARDING PARKS AND GOLF COURSES:**

Through respective executive orders, the Governor and the Bergen County Executive reopened parks as of sunrise on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The reopening of county parks and golf courses will be in accordance with the parameters outlined in the Governor’s order, which can be found [here](#). Furthermore, the County Executive strongly encouraged Bergen County residents to use the county parks closest to their homes and to adhere to social distancing practices. The Bergen County Zoo is closed.

**STATE PARKS AND FORESTS:** The Governor’s order allows state parks and forests to open to the public for passive recreation, including fishing, hunting, boating, canoeing, hiking, walking, running or jogging, biking, birding, and horseback riding.

Playgrounds remain closed at this time.

To limit physical interaction, the state parks and forests must implement reasonable restrictions that include:

- Limiting parking to 50% of maximum capacity and prohibiting parking in undesignated areas;
- Prohibiting picnics;
- Requiring social distancing to be practiced except with immediate family members, caretakers, household members, or romantic partners; and
- Banning organized or contact activities or sports; and gatherings of any kind.

*The order also recommends that people wear a cloth face covering while in public settings at the parks and forests where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.*

**GOLF COURSES:** Golf courses may open as long as they adopt minimum social distancing policies. Please refer to the [order](#) for a complete list of restrictions and modifications. Miniature golf courses and driving ranges remain closed. Bergen County golf courses will open gradually starting with Soldier Hill and Valley Brook Golf Courses open for play effective Saturday.

**HAWORTH PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS:** Haworth parks and playgrounds, including Flats Road (a/k/a the “Reservoir Path”), remain **closed** at this time. The Mayor and Council continue to monitor the situation throughout the county and will make adjustments that ensure the health and safety of our residents. We appreciate your cooperation.

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE CHAIRMAN:**

On Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order 130, which allows, but does not require, municipalities to extend the grace period for the payment of quarterly taxes without interest charges from May 11th until June 1st.

With only a few days since the issuance of the order, the Finance Department and the Mayor and Council do not know what effect the extension will have on the Borough's financial health with respect to later tax collections and cash flows. It should be noted that neither the State, nor the County, have extended their due dates for the Borough's payments to them.

While the Borough recognizes that some property owners are suffering financial hardship due to the Covid-19 crisis, in the interest of good stewardship of assets, we are unable to offer an extension of the grace period.

### **ESSENTIAL RETAIL BUSINESS DEFINITION EXPANDED TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL BUSINESSES**

On 4/27/20 New Jersey expanded the definition of essential retail business that can be open to the public to include:

- Pet stores, pet groomers, pet daycare, and pet boarding businesses;
- Stores that principally sell items necessary for religious observation or worship;
- Car dealerships, but only for auto maintenance and repair, to deliver online purchases directly to customers, to arrange for curbside pickup; or for test-drive of a purchased vehicle.

The full administrative order can be found [here](#).