



## CITY OF RYE

Dear Residents,

Thirteen long weeks ago, we began the planning and necessary operational changes in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Over the course of a few weeks, we were forced to transform and modify many of our traditional services. We were also required to suspend and cancel numerous activities. All of this was done with foremost care and focus on the safety of our employees and the community at large.

As the region begins to reopen, it is now time to renew many of our traditional City activities and services. This will be accomplished over the next month. As we reopen, you will see changes in the way the City operates. As with enterprises across the Country, we have taken this opportunity to review many aspects of City government, and in doing so, look for more efficient ways to provide services. In the coming few weeks, we will provide specific guidance on reopening, but the following highlights the restart.

### **City Hall**

Beginning tomorrow, June 25, administrative staff will return to City Hall. This will be at half-staff, with full staff returning on July 13. Initially, City Hall will be closed to the public while we make some necessary physical changes to the layout of offices and public space. The public will be allowed to return to the building in early August. Please note that virtually all administrative services can now be completed remotely. Please refer to the City's website, and specific departments, for the various forms, permits, etc.

### **Department of Public Works**

Full DPW staff returned this week. For the past three months, we have been operating with rotating weekly staff to assure essential service. For the next few weeks, DPW will catch up on deferred maintenance of public spaces, including recreation fields and playgrounds, road patching/stripping and general maintenance. We are also adopting new janitorial protocols for all City buildings. Beginning the week of July 13, we will restart twice a week garbage services. With this restart, there will be some modifications that will be described in greater detail later this week.

### **Rye Recreation**

With the Phase 3 reopening, and following specific guidance in recent weeks, Rye Rec programming has restarted. To replace our traditional day camp program we are in the process of planning week long half day camps and weekly programming for all ages. As the camps and programs are planned we will announce and post to the Rec page on the City website. Several are already posted and registration has started with more to come. As fields and tennis courts are prepped and brought to our necessary standards, they will be made available to user groups, permits holders and program attendees. We are also working rapidly to get the playgrounds ready to reopen, and expect this will begin the week of June 29.

## **Rye Golf Club**

The swimming pool will reopen later this week. It will be opened in two-hour, reserved sessions for members. For specific details, please refer to the RGC website and correspondence from the Club Manager. Golf operations are close to 100% pre-COVID operations, but with significant changes to cleaning regiments, social distancing, use of carts etc.

## **Purchase Street Closure**

As you are all aware, we closed Purchase Street this morning, at least until July 19. We have been working with the Chamber of Commerce and the downtown community to undertake a reimagining of the Central Business District for the next few months. Please note that there are some directional changes to Car Parks 1 and 2 to allow for better traffic flow and emergency access. This past Thursday, we provided a map and description. This was posted on the City's website, as well as that of the Chamber. Please note that metered parking is being extended to 9pm, Monday-Saturday.

I realize how difficult the last three months have been on everyone. It has been a lot of work for City staff to provide the high level of service you (and they) have come to expect, while working under these challenging circumstance. As a community, we are very fortunate to have them.

We will provide more detail in the coming week on all of these topics. In the meantime, thank you for your patience and assistance during these trying times.

Regards,



Greg Usry  
Interim City Manager