Dear Fellow Resident:

During this unprecedented time in our community, our country and our world, I want to share with you some useful information and details on various State and Federal programs that might help reduce the level of anxiety we are all feeling. First, however, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the employees in the various essential fields, including health care workers, first responders and even supermarket staff to name only a few. We recognize and will be forever grateful for the sacrifices you are making by risking your own health on a daily basis in service to your communities and your neighbors. May God be with you and protect you and your loved ones. Also, my most sincere well wishes to anyone who is or has a loved one infected with the coronavirus. Our prayers are with you and your family for a speedy return to good health. And, finally, a very big thank you to everyone who is doing their part to limit the spread of the virus in our collective attempt to "flatten the curve" by adhering to the advice and directives for social distancing and other measures being made by our State and Federal leaders.

During the past several weeks, I have been in daily contact with Federal, State and County officials to gather information and details on anything that can help protect our residents or help lift up our residents and local business owners who have unexpectedly come upon bad times thru no fault of their own. On nearly a daily basis, I convey these documents to our Township Administration and Police Department, who have created a consolidated site that provides the latest information. The information on the site ranges from the complete copies of the Executive Orders issued by the Governor, the latest CDC information and guidelines, updated statistics related to the number of active COVID-19 cases in our community and a long list of State and Federal programs aimed at helping both individuals and business owners weather the current storm. The link to the site is as follows:

http://denvillepolice.org/covid19_info/index.php

Residents are encouraged to visit the site regularly as new programs, directives, initiatives and details are being released on almost a daily basis. The links to the various programs are arranged in chronological order with the newest programs always towards the top.

I will continue to scour for information and fight for programs that will help our residents and businesses until we are fully recovered. As stated in a previous release and as demonstrated by the amazing generosity of our community so far during this crisis, Denville will get thru these difficult times and will forge an even stronger sense of community because of our efforts.

Business owners are encouraged to check the websites listed below for valuable updates.

- Some tips on how you can speak to a live person and avoid hours on hold and in computerized systems:

  - State (EDA): Log on to: https://faq.business.nj.gov/en/collections/2198378-information-for-nj-businesses-on-the-coronavirus-outbreak and click on the circle on the bottom right corner. Fill out the questionnaire and you will receive a call.

  - Federal (SBA) Logon to: https://bench.co/blog/tax-tips/coronavirus-relief-bill/ and make an appointment. As of now the call back schedule extends into next week.

Other Useful links:
- EDA Eligibility Wizard https://assistance.business.nj.gov/
- Facebook Small Business Grant: https://www.facebook.com/business/grants?content_id=KKf6RWdyo87L7QO
- Unemployment insurance: https://faq.business.nj.gov/en/articles/3841547-what-benefits-or-unemployment-insurance-are-available-to-me-if-i-have-been-impacted-by-the-outbreak

May God Bless and Protect you, your families and the entire Township of Denville,

Mayor Thomas W. Andes