

Dear Westwood Residents,

The National Weather Service and National Hurricane Center advises of the potential for a serious storm event to reach our area sometime Sunday or Monday. With predictions for Hurricane Sandy to potentially impact New Jersey, the Westwood Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is working in conjunction with Bergen County OEM and the State of New Jersey OEM to monitor the track of the storm and make emergency preparations.

Borough Officials are working with our State representatives to request the advance release of water from area reservoirs. The Woodcliff Lake reservoir is currently at 91.22 feet leaving close to four feet of capacity. Assemblywoman Schepisi has asked the NJDEP to request of the New York Division of Water that they lower their reservoir levels immediately in anticipation of heavy precipitation.

The Westwood DPW is checking and clearing catch basins throughout the Borough in anticipation of the storm. Residents should report any clogged catch basins to the DPW by Friday afternoon at 2 p.m. The number is 201-664-2349. **Residents are urged to help keep catch basins clear by not putting leaves into the street this weekend.** Homeowners should be sure to remove any loose branches, and ensure that gutters and leaders are clear of debris.

PSE&G has notified the Borough of its preparations to provide emergency service. Should Hurricane Sandy hit New Jersey, electric and gas services may be impacted. PSE&G customers should call the Customer Service line at 1-800-436-PSEG to report downed wires or power outages. This is an automated system designed to route calls to the right destination quickly, so please do not be deterred by the answering system.

As with every major storm and potential flooding event, the Borough's OEM, Police, Fire, EMS, and Public Works departments will be on duty to safeguard the Borough's residents. Predictions have been made that our area may receive up to five inches of rainfall. Residents living in areas susceptible to flooding are urged to take all necessary precautions to protect their homes and make advance arrangements should evacuation become necessary. If you have not signed up to receive the Borough's emergency notifications by email or phone, please take a moment right now to do so on the Borough Website Home Page. Updates will be posted on the Borough's Home Page as information becomes available. Residents are urged to monitor the weather reports, and make appropriate decisions regarding the safety of their families.

Thank you,

Borough of Westwood

John Birkner, Jr. - Mayor