

# Town of North Castle

## Supervisor

**Michael J. Schiliro**

### E-News Update

#### Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Well, 2020 is a year to remember. Tropical Storm ISAIAS is now second only to Sandy in its devastation and power loss in Westchester. Please pay attention to the emails and Nixle alerts sent by our Police Department. If you are not registered for Nixle yet, just register now at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com). It's so simple and keeps you alerted via text and/or email with important messages from our Police, Highway, etc. Every resident should be signed up for Nixle alerts in addition to the Town email list.

Based on various conversations in the streets, neighborhoods, phone, and email, I think we've all just had it. Covid has been all we can handle, and then Isaias comes along. We'll get through it, we always do, and all I can ask is for additional patience that is already frayed.

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#### TROPICAL STORM ISAIAS:

**POWER STATUS:** I'll start at the end; everyone simply wants to know when their power will return. The short answer is not quickly; Con Ed is starting restoration today IF they can finish clearing downed wires with our Highway crews, and based on the Con Ed conference call that we literally just hung up from with all Westchester Municipalities, the outages could last at least a week, so make preparations. I know clearly that this is not the answer you want and is not acceptable, but the Town obviously cannot repair lines, and Con Ed does not have the staff, nor adequate mutual aid staff (help from out of state and Canada) to fix everyone overnight. Every municipality on the call was as animated as we were as to our complete frustration with Con Ed. And for those who feel we are not doing enough to get Con Ed to respond, we are doing everything possible. Every municipality in Westchester is in the same boat, so although we are all demanding Con Ed crews, Con Ed is not going to send all of their crews to North Castle or any other town first. For those who may comment over the next few days that they don't see any Con Ed crews in Town, remember how big our Town is – 26 square miles and about 100 miles of road. As limited as their crews may be over the next week, they may be in Town, just not visible to you.

**THE STORM:** It was swift but devastating. We currently have approximately 3,143 residents/businesses without power, thus about 62% of our Town, and there are over 94,000 without power in the County. (By the way, I have changed the 3,143 number 18 times – higher - since I started typing this message). There are

downed trees everywhere. Our highway department has already cleared dozens of roads using our maximum crew strength, and as of this morning after our Highway Superintendent “swept” the Town (drove every road to inspect damage), we had 55 roads left to clear, with approximately 37 roads with downed wires, meaning we MUST wait for a Con Ed crew to perform a safe “cut and clear”. We understand those who are frustrated as to why we haven’t cleared your road yet. Please understand, our number one priority is providing access to our emergency vehicles throughout our 26 square miles and almost 100 miles of road, thus all roads are a priority but we simply cannot clear every road simultaneously, and if we need to rely on Con Ed due to downed wires, we have no choice but to wait for them. We had crews out last night and we waited for Con Ed, but to no avail. We had crews out this morning, waiting again to no avail, and finally a Con Ed line crew arrived midday.

**CON ED:** We have been working with our Con Ed liaison since before the storm began – normally they are stationed on site in our Police Department but due to Covid they are obviously working remotely. Our Police and Highway Departments are working with Con Ed to assess all problem areas. Con Ed is also working on their restoration phase, determining the total outages, the cause of those outages, locations, and restoring power to as many as quickly as possible. There is no estimate yet on full restoration, but they plan to begin today where they can in conjunction with “cut and clear” operations. A big part of our role with Con Ed is to provide information and direction, communicate our urgencies, and make their job easier once they arrive. I’ll add one positive to this mess; Con Ed has invested millions of dollars in line-hardening and tree removal projects in Town since Sandy. During Sandy, all but about 100 homes lost power. It’s very likely that without the work that Con Ed did, our outage numbers might easily exceed 4,000. I’m not providing cover for Con Ed, but just sharing some info that you might not be aware of.

**TEMPORARY OUTAGES:** It’s common during restoration that if you have power, you may temporary lose power; it’s called a “deliberate shutdown”. In the process of restoring certain properties, sometimes they must cut power to a broader area in order to complete, and then restore everyone in that area. If this happens to you, you can call Con Ed and they may be able to confirm, but odds are your power loss is short term.

#### **CHARGING STATION / WATER:**

**Armonk:** We have a 24/7 charging station outside of the Hergenhan Rec Center on Maple Ave. There are a finite number of outlets, bring your own cords and plugs, wear masks, bring disinfectant, etc. Also, we connected a hose for those with well water who need water to flush, etc. It is not drinking water.

**North White Plains Community Center:** We are also establishing a 24/7 charging station outside of the Center. There are a finite number of outlets, bring your own cords and plugs, wear masks, bring disinfectant, etc.

**DRY ICE:** Con-Edison will be distributing Dry Ice beginning today at:

The Cortlandt Town Center, 3121 East Main St., Mohegan Lake, in the Best Buy Parking Lot.

The Cross-County Shopping Center at 8000 Mall Walk in Yonkers.

**FOOD STORAGE:** DeCicco's has offered, while space exists, to store your refrigerator and freezer items. Put them in separate bins, preferably coolers, label with your name, and bring to the front of the store. Their staff will help you from there.

**POWER OUTAGES:**

If you haven't reported your outage yet, call Con Edison directly: (800) 752-6633 or visit their website at [www.coned.com](http://www.coned.com). Every residence should report their own outage directly to Con Edison in order for them to create a ticket. You can also sign up for Con Edison Text Alerts by [Clicking Here](#). And while on their website, you can find a ["map of outages"](#) and customize right down to North Castle.

**TOWN POOL:** The Town Pool is closed. We have no power, thus cannot run the filters.

**EMERGENCIES and HAZARDS:**

In case of Emergency call the North Castle Police Department (NCPD): 273-9500 as many of you have been doing. And even though the storm is over, dangerous conditions still exist like weak limbs, etc. Please be careful!! (I experienced one personally yesterday while helping clearing a road in North White – thankfully no one was hurt, but a weak limb came down out of nowhere.)

**CAUTION: Do not drive around Police barriers or yellow Caution Tape once a road is closed. The NCPD closes a road because a hazard exists, and NEVER ATTEMPT TO TOUCH WIRES.**

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**COVID**

It's not any less important now. Masking Up is now a way of life. We need to do everything in our power to prevent a relapse in the near future, and we can literally control most of that. Just continue to do what you have been doing, Model Good Behavior, Mask Up, Keep Your 6 Feet, and don't let up. Simple.

**SOCIAL MEDIA FOR TOWN INFO:** As always, follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Our Clerk's office does a great job of updated these often as it provides another means to receive Town info.

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I and the Town Board and Town Administrator thank you for making the jobs of our dedicated employees and volunteer Fire

and EMT's easier by modeling good behavior related to the storm and Covid. We all have needed patience already, and we need a little more during this power outage.

Stay safe!

Mike

Michael Schiliro - Supervisor Town of North Castle



**NORTH CASTLE COUNTS**

The 2020 Census is happening NOW!  
Online, by phone, or by mail

**2020census.gov**

**English:**  
844-330-2020

**Español:**  
844-468-2020

**MAKE US COUNT**

UNITED STATES CENSUS 2020

WESTCHESTER

CENSUS 2020

Sign up for emergency alerts via  
NIXLE

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