

**Borough Hall will be closed Friday, March 29th in observance of Good Friday.**

**From the Desk of Mayor Frank Nunziato**

I'd like to address the recent removal of trees on Woodland Avenue, as I've understandably had several residents reach out to me regarding this topic.

In order to install new ADA ramps and curbs as part of the 2023 Road Resurfacing plan, the Borough recently removed trees from Woodland Ave that were interfering with the scope of the project.

The trees had outgrown the tree belt and were causing the damage to the existing curbs. The Borough consulted with our engineer, contractor and DPW staff in an attempt to minimize the removals. The amount of trees that were removed was unavoidable. Any tree that was removed will be replaced during our replanting after the repaving is completed.

All residents should know that we understand how important Rutherford's tree canopy is not just to our environment, but also to residential curb appeal. The Borough takes all measures possible to avoid tree removal, and that we carefully maintain a tree replacement program for when removal is required. .

Additionally, please take a moment to read Councilman Ray Guzman's discussion about vehicular and pedestrian safety around our schools on the following page. The Borough has begun upgrades around town to the schools and problem areas under Councilman Guzman's initiative so please be cognizant of the reminders he lays out as well as the new initiatives taking place. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,  
Mayor Frank Nunziato

**Meeting Time Change**  
Please note - the Monday, April 8th Mayor and Council meeting will begin at **5:00pm** at 18 Donaldson Avenue

THE RUTHERFORD SHADE TREE COMMISSION PRESENTS

# Rutherford TreeFest '24

An Arbor Day Craft & Food Festival celebrating the Borough of Trees

**Saturday, April 20th 2024**  
**12-5 pm • Lincoln Park**  
across from Borough Hall at 176 Park Ave

**Featuring:**

- Educational Booths
- Toy & Craft Vendors
- Food & Drink
- Beer Garden
- Live Music
- Magic Show and balloons at 2pm

*& more family friendly fun throughout the day!*

Proudly sponsored by

**Primary Election Information**  
Visit the Borough website for important voter information and dates

**Save the Date!**  
Saturday **June 15<sup>th</sup>**

# PorchFest 2024

presented by The Rutherford Arts Committee

**Now Seeking Musicians, Porches & Volunteers!**  
[www.rutherfordboronj.com/committees/arts/porchfest/](http://www.rutherfordboronj.com/committees/arts/porchfest/)

**Little League Parade - Road Closures**  
On Saturday, April 6th, from approximately 9-10am, Little League will host its annual parade from the vicinity of Union School to Memorial Park. Expect detours and closures.

**Councilman Ray Guzmán**  
rguzman@rutherfordboronj.com

**Police Liaison**

During the last Mayor and Council meeting residents spoke of their deep concerns regarding vehicular safety and pedestrian safety around the schools. This governing body could not agree more with the voiced concerns. Our children, school staff, crossing guards, visitors, residents living in the perimeters of our schools and All Rutherford residents deserve a safe school zone.

After the meeting, I asked our Borough Administrator, Bob Kakoleski and Chief of Police, John Russo to conduct an overall review of safety around all of the Borough schools. This review was not limited to vehicular violations as it also included a review of signage, yellow curb and crosswalk conditions.

Within days of my request, Chief Russo and his team presented the Borough Administrator and me with a detailed study of current conditions around the schools and suggested remedies.

As a result of the report, the Rutherford Police Dept. will be strategically going to each school zone to enforce violations. Any violation observed, whether it is parking or moving, will be enforced. These strategically planned traffic safety enforcement days will be unannounced but easily recognizable. These measures are solely to enhance driver behavior around our schools and increase the safety of every child in the Borough.

**Parking reminders:**

1. No Parking within an intersection
2. No Parking in front of a driveway
3. No parking 50 feet from a stop sign
4. No parking facing the opposite direction
5. No parking 25 feet from an intersection
6. No double parking

Furthermore, The Rutherford Police department has made recommendations of the following and will be working with Our Borough Administrator and other Borough Depts. to accomplish:

- All Schools repainting the Yellow no parking zones with striped rectangles into the roadway.
- Add additional stop signs (14)
- “Stop Ahead” roadway painting or signage
- Repaint yellow curbs
- Add pedestrian Crossing Signs (10)
- Refresh painted crosswalks
- Trim trees in any obstructed view areas
- The Borough will also be looking into the possibility of installing a few light up (solar powered) stop signs.

As Residents, we must all do our part in creating safer school zones. Please let’s all slow down, observe signage and restrictions. Our Children deserve this.

I would like to thank Our Borough Administrator, Chief of Police and the Rutherford Police Dept. for their swift, diligent study and recommendations.

**Council President Stephanie McGowan**  
smcgowan@rutherfordboronj.com

At the March 25th meeting, the Mayor and Council introduced the ordinance for Budget Introduction. The 2024 municipal budget was introduced at a municipal rate of 1.89%. In our continued effort to remain good stewards of our taxpayer resources, our Borough Administrator and Chief Financial Officer were able to deliver a responsible budget that took into account several factors such as a reduction in municipal revenue in 2023; as well as a significant increase of 40% in general liability insurance and 33% in worker’s comprehensive insurance. Despite these challenges, with the assistance of each department head, we were able present this budget which was introduced unanimously by my colleagues. As finance chair, I would like to extend my appreciation to Councilman Guzman for serving as 2nd on finance, and to the Mayor and my council colleagues for their participation and support of this budget.

**Bergen County Executive James Tedesco and the Board of County Commissioners invite you to a FREE homeownership fair.**

**SPRING INTO HOMEOWNERSHIP!**

**FREE ONLINE ZOOM WORKSHOPS**   
**EVERY SATURDAY IN APRIL**  
**10:30 AM TO 12:00 PM**

Register at <https://bit.ly/430Y0wq>

or scan here →

