

From the Desk of Mayor Frank Nunziato

Saturday was a beautiful day in the Borough of Trees as we celebrated Arbor Day with the Shade Tree Commission and their annual TreeFest in Lincoln Park. As usual, the weather cooperated and it was a wonderful kick-off to spring.

I'd like to thank sponsor BCB Bank and especially Shade Tree Commissioner and DPW member Steve Addeo for coordinating the event, as well as being the driving force behind the recent renaissance of Lincoln Park so it can look its best for events like these.

At Monday's meeting, it was my great honor to present Bill Rood with a proclamation for his 50 years of service as a volunteer fire fighter for the Rutherford Fire Department. I'd like to thank his family - his wife Elizabeth and daughters Mellissa and Danielle - for supporting Bill all these years. The dedication and sacrifices all volunteer fire fighters make are incredible, but a 50 year commitment to the safety of our community is beyond impressive and it's hard to believe anyone can achieve that milestone.

On behalf of the Borough of Rutherford, I'd like to congratulate and thank Bill Rood for his service to us all.

Sincerely,
Mayor Frank Nunziato

Proclamations Presented

This week the Borough issued four well deserved proclamations. Read about 3 of them below as well as a very special proclamation from Council President McGowan on page 2.



Bill Rood received a proclamation for his outstanding 50 years of service to the Rutherford Fire Department. Bill has held numerous positions including Lieutenant, Captain, President, Secretary and Treasurer of Truck Co. 1 and was elected Chief of the Rutherford Fire Department in 1988 and again in 2003.

Bill held position of South Bergen Zone 1 Coordinator from 1989-2023, was President of the RFD Fund Drive Committee as well as member and Secretary of the RFD Relief Association, member of the RFD Exempts Association and Life member of the South Bergen Fire Chiefs Association and the NJ State Firemen's Association.



Members of the **Rutherford Elks** accepted a proclamation in honor of Elks National Youth Week, which is May 1-7.



Kearny Bank employees accepted a proclamation commending the 50th anniversary of the bank's Rutherford location.

Volunteer Clean-Up Day - Sat. May 4

9:00am-11:00am

Registration and check-in at Borough Hall, 176 Park Ave
If possible, please bring gloves and rakes.

Smiles and a helping hand are always welcome!

Clean up areas include: Train Station, Williams Center Plaza, Ettrick Terrace Parking Lot, Erie Avenue

Repair Cafe - Sat. May 18

11:30am-3:30pm

Volunteer experts will help repair a variety of household items.



rutherfordboronj.com/upcoming-events

Council President Stephanie McGowan
smcgowan@rutherfordboronj.com

Finance Liaison

On Monday, the 2024 fiscal year municipal and capital improvement budget was adopted. On behalf of my colleagues, I'd like to thank Borough Administrator Bob Kakoleski and CFO Gordon Stelter for their contributions to this budget. The presentation in its entirety can be found on the Borough website under "Special Presentations."

Also on Monday, I had the privilege to read into record a proclamation recognizing April as Autism Acceptance Month. Because this is a topic so dear to me personally, I would like to share these words again:

WHEREAS, the month of April is recognized as Autism Acceptance Month, dedicated to encouraging the acceptance, understanding, and awareness of individuals diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder known as ASD; and,

WHEREAS, 1 in 36 individuals are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder nationally with a higher incidence rate of 1-35 in the State of New Jersey; and,

WHEREAS, Autism impacts people regardless of race, ethnicity, and socio-economic backgrounds; and,

WHEREAS, currently there is no known "cure" for Autism Spectrum Disorder; and,

WHEREAS, while Autism is commonly associated with the challenge of communication, social skills, and behavior, and individuals within the Autism Spectrum Disorder community present varying qualities, strengths, and challenges; and,

WHEREAS, it is imperative to create and foster a community that both recognizes and supports individuals with autism and embraces neurodiversity and promotes inclusivity through Access for All; and,

WHEREAS, building communities that support acceptance of individuals with neurodiversity promotes awareness of ASD and is essential in promoting early diagnosis, intervention, and access to resources and support; and,

WHEREAS, continuing Rutherford's mission of Access for All further supports an inclusive and supportive environment that promotes understanding, empathy, and acceptance within schools, workplaces, homes, and throughout Rutherford; and,

WHEREAS, creating an inclusive and supportive community focused on cultivating positive relationships, understanding, and empathy for the inclusion of all neurodiverse individuals promotes greater civic engagement and adds to the texture and fabric of our Borough; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on behalf of the Borough of Rutherford, I, Mayor Frank Nunziato, do hereby proclaim that April, 2024 be designated as:

NATIONAL AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

Councilwoman Maria Begg-Roberson
mbegg-roberson@rutherfordboronj.com

Recreation Liaison

RECREATION SOCCER REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 1st for girls & boys entering Kinder through 8th grade in Fall 2024. For more information and/or to register go to Rec Desk at Programs (recdesk.com)

Registration closes June 21, 2024.

The season will start mid-September.
Rutherford residents only.

Interested in being a volunteer coach? Please complete the form at <https://forms.gle/SyHN287Xp8UeHAYb8>

SUMMER CHESS CLUB registration opens MAY 1st!
(Please note this is NOT an instructional class)
For more information and/or to register go to Rec Desk at Programs (recdesk.com)
For Rutherford children aged 1st to 8th Grade

Councilman Matthew Cokeley
mcokeley@rutherfordboronj.com

Rutherford Fire Department

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Rutherford Volunteer Firefighter - youth or adult - email recruitment@rutherfordfd.com. The Rutherford Fire Department's Junior Firefighter's program is now open to 16 and 17 year old youths. Applications and requirements to be a Firefighter and Junior Firefighter are now available on the Borough website.

www.rutherfordboronj.com/departments/fire-department/

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

The Official Mail-In Ballots for the June Primary have been mailed out to voters with Active Vote By Mail Requests. Only voters with active vote by mail requests will receive their ballot. Voters with active requests who do not receive their ballot by May 2, 2024 should call the County at 201-336-7020 to request a duplicate. The Deadline for the County to receive Vote by Mail Applications for this Election is May 28, 2024.