

Department News

- From the DPW -

The Department of Public Works is looking forward to resuming the normal spring operations. Our department takes a lot of pride in Rutherford's field conditions and it was sad to see them go unused for much of last year. Especially now that Diamonds 5 and 6 at Memorial Park have lighting, we're looking forward to resuming the usual care that residents are used to finding in their recreational facilities.

Additionally, I'd like to tell you about the **Rutherford Reforestation Program**. We take tree planting very seriously here and it's important that residents know that healthy Borough-owned trees are not removed unless they have been evaluated by DPW's tree expert, who is licensed by the International Society of Arbor Culture. This employee creates a formula based on the diameter, species, age and health of the tree in order to issue a cost to the resident. Based on this knowledge, if the resident decides to proceed with the tree removal, they are required to compensate the Borough for removal. That money is placed in a fund dedicated solely to replenishing our tree inventory. The DPW has a goal of planting 300 trees this year. Healthy Borough trees will not be taken down unless a full evaluation is undertaken and a fee paid by the resident that ultimately funds the planting of multiple more trees.

As we get through the winter together, the DPW requests that you please park your car in the driveway, if you have one, when it snows. Occasionally residents will leave their car on the street during a snow emergency because they think snow will be plowed into their driveway, but removing as many cars from the roadways is crucial to maintaining clean roadways for all residents as well as emergency vehicles. RPD tickets cars left on snow emergency streets in order to enforce this.

I'd like to also mention how proud I am that Rutherford's DPW maintains street cleaning 12 months a year, when many other municipalities do not. Unless a major storm is expected, we continue all operations as normal all year long. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

- Chris Seidler, Superintendent of the DPW

The Borough is monitoring a snow event that is expected to take place Sunday night into Monday.

If your car is parked on a snow emergency street, move it BEFORE snow accumulates or your car will be TICKETED AND TOWED.

Cars will be towed as necessary throughout the night. Please be aware of where your car is parked prior to going to sleep Sunday night.

Alternate side of the street parking will be suspended Monday and Tuesday.

Snow Emergency Street List:

www.rutherfordboronj.com/resident-info/snow-emergency-info/



The 2021 1st quarter Taxes are due February 1, 2021 with a grace period up to and including February 10, 2021

2021 BERGEN COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

Take your hazardous waste to a safer place!

PARAMUS	MAHWAH	MOONACHIE
Bergen Community College 400 Paramus Road (Entry via Paramus Rd. only)	Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation 200 Campgaw Road	Bergen County Utilities Authority Foot of Empire Blvd. (Entry via Empire Blvd. only)
SUNDAY April 11th June 13th October 17th	SATURDAY May 15th July 10th September 11th	SATURDAY March 6th November 13th
9:00 am - 3:00 pm	9:00 am - 3:00 pm	9:00 am - 3:00 pm

All collection sites open (rain or shine) at 9:00 a.m. and close promptly at 3:00 p.m.

FREE OF CHARGE FOR BERGEN COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY - ID REQUIRED!

Absolutely no business or commercial waste will be accepted without prior written approval. Businesses must pre-register prior to attending BCUA sponsored hazardous waste collection events. A disposal fee will be charged and collected. Call 201-807-8696 for further information.

DO NOT BRING electronics, paper shredding, or tires to hazardous waste collections!!

Visit www.bcuu.org for additional information.



Recycle!
Printed on recycled paper.

NO RETURNS. This includes gasoline and motor oil containers. Please plan accordingly.



From the Desk of Mayor Frank Nunziato

At Monday's Council Meeting, I finalized the remaining 2021 Committee, Board and Commission appointments, with the exception of the Citizens Finance Committee, which will be made once the draft budget is ready for review.

Additionally, I'm excited to announce that in the coming weeks, we will be releasing an outline of what the Council and I hope to accomplish this year and a recap of 2020.

This week, a group of volunteer Rutherford residents and businesses owners launched an initiative designed to help our small businesses during these difficult times. This is a true example of the great things that can happen when people team up to volunteer their time and skills to help their community. This initiative has been organized by local volunteers and is not directly affiliated with the Borough of Rutherford. For more information, please visit adoptabusinessrutherford.org.

I'd also like to welcome home Rutherford Police Captain Patrick Feliciano, who after a non-COVID related medical emergency was hospitalized for several weeks. Captain Feliciano was instrumental in coordinating all the Salute to Heroes caravans as well as all the holiday-related caravans throughout town last year, as we all sought new ways to come together as a community during a crazy year.

Because so many residents have reached out to my colleagues and I with concern and well wishes for Captain Feliciano, we wanted to share that he is home and to ask the community to join us in wishing him well. I think we can all agree that Rutherford's best attribute is how our community takes care of each other.

Welcome home, Pat. We're glad to have you back.

Sincerely,
Mayor Frank Nunziato

Council Reports

Council President Mark Goldsack

mgoldsack@rutherfordboronj.com

Finance

Resolution No. 27 - Laura Ward Separation Resolution - Passed - This resolution authorizes a payment to retired Borough employee Laura Ward in the amount of \$2,437.61 for unused sick time in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement. We thank Laura for her service to the Borough and wish her well in all of her future endeavors.

Redevelopment

Please be advised that I have requested a resolution be added to my agenda which authorizes and directs the Planning Board to conduct a study of only the properties owned by Vango Holdings (owners of the Parker and adjacent properties) to determine whether or not those properties qualify as an area in need of redevelopment in accordance with the New Jersey Local Redevelopment and Housing Law. This resolution is an amended version of the resolution that was removed from consideration at the December 14th Mayor and Council meeting as a result of concerns expressed by both my colleagues and the public relating to the scope of the area included in the study.



Councilwoman Maria Begg-Roberson

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Holman Properties

Councilwoman McGowan, the Borough Administrator, and I, met with the owner of the properties on the corner of Lincoln Ave, Highland Cross, and Park Ave to learn about his hopes for the area. Following the meeting, Councilwoman McGowan asked for a closed session meeting with the Mayor and Council to share what we learned from the meeting. This closed session will take place at the upcoming council meeting. I also had an opportunity to meet with some residents on Lincoln Ave to ensure that they are apprised of possible future plans.

The Rutherford Civil Rights Commission (RCRC)

The Civil Rights Commission is beginning the year with exciting plans for our community. The mission of the RCRC centers around promoting equality and justice while upholding the rights of all people. The RCRC has the ability to provide impartial mediation for discrimination complaints. They also organize events that build unity while deepening residents' cultural competence.

Beverly Khan, the co-chair of the RCRC, will be hosting virtual book club meetings with residents. Please visit the Rutherford Civil Rights Commission Facebook page to learn more about upcoming events and initiatives.

Councilman Tom Mullahey

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Chief Russo brought to my attention a letter he received pertaining to the actions of four of his officers. While it is not uncommon for him to receive letters of thanks or accommodation, this specific letter was unique as it was from a defense attorney who felt the need to acknowledge the officers' actions after reviewing Body Worn Camera footage which was part of a legal case.

Without reading the letter verbatim, I will share the first and last sentences from the attorney since they reflect his sentiment..."The level of professionalism, courtesy and kindness displayed by the officers of the Rutherford Police Department is far more than noteworthy, it is commendable"; "Quite honestly, other police departments could benefit by using the video in the matter as a training tool."

Chief Russo stated he was very proud of his officers, although not surprised. He stated these actions are indeed commendable, but they represent a majority of our daily interactions and are a true testament to the quality of the personnel employed here at the Rutherford Police Department. He also thanked the attorney for submitting the letter because most of the actions of his officers are very autonomous by the nature of this profession and are not recognized. This is yet another great example of the benefits of body worn cameras.

Councilman Matthew Cokeley

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RFD: The Borough would like to congratulate Alan Fernandes on his membership acceptance into the Rutherford Fire Department's Engine Co. #3 and Matt Kuznia's accepted membership in the Rutherford Fire Department's Union Truck & Bucket Co. #1. We thank you and your families for your dedication to our Borough. The Rutherford Fire Department's Junior Firefighter's program is now open to 16 and 17 year olds youths. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Rutherford Volunteer Firefighter - youth or adult - email recruitment@rutherfordfd.com.

Social Services: Families in need of emergency food please contact the Social Services Director, Genevieve Kacmarcik, at 201-460-3028 or gkacmarcik@rutherfordboronj.com. She can connect you with the Rutherford Food Pantry.

Arts Committee: March is Children's Arts Month and due to the tremendous success of the Military Banner program (thank you to Councilman Tommy Mullahey), the Borough, in partnership with the Rutherford Arts Council, is beginning a call for artwork created by our resident children under the age of 18. The theme will be "Art Connects Us". Details on entry fee and submission requirements will be sent out next week.

Board of Adjustment: Congratulations on newly-elected board positions - Chairman: Rich Rovito, Vice-Chair: Phil Townsend, Secretary: Connor Fox.

Data & Science Analysis: Welcome and thank you to all the new appointees. We're looking forward to developing this program into a powerful resource for the Borough decision-makers.