



From the desk of Mayor Frank Nunziato

The Office of the Bergen County Executive recently notified the Borough and the Williams Center Board of Trustees that Bergen County, the current owner of the Williams Center, has decided to auction off the property. It's my understanding that the County will have two rounds of public hearing prior to any sale.

Rutherford's Borough Engineer is currently in the process of putting together a redevelopment plan that will be presented to the council to be amended, or presented to, the planning board. Having a redevelopment plan in place prior to the County's sale of the property will allow for Rutherford to have a voice in what ultimately happens to it.

For more details regarding these hearings, please reach out to the County Clerk's office whose information can be found at www.bergenclerk.org. I urge Rutherford residents to remain informed about the process surrounding the sale of this property. As we all know, our downtown can greatly benefit from the sensible handling of the future of this property.

Please consider participating in the house decorating and jack-o-lantern contests that the Rec Department is currently hosting. It's a great way to safely enjoy the Halloween season.

Tomorrow, Saturday, October 3rd is the Grand Finale of Dining Out Rutherford. Park Ave. I'd like to thank residents for supporting Rutherford businesses during these difficult past few months. I'd like to mention that while we will cease closing Park Ave for the season, the cement parklets some restaurants have will remain until the weather becomes too cold to eat outside. I look forward to seeing everyone tomorrow and hope you all enjoy the music by Super TransAm featuring James McGill at the intersection of Park Ave and The Terrace. A Mariachi Band will also be playing on the north end of Park Ave near Azteca.

Sincerely,
Mayor Frank Nunziato



Election Information:

The Borough has been advised by the Office of the Bergen County Clerk that the Mail-In Ballots have been mailed out to all Rutherford active registered voters.

Registered voters should expect to receive their ballots within the week. If you haven't received a ballot by October 8, 2020, contact the County Clerk at 201-336-7020 or electionsclerk@co.bergen.nj.us for a duplicate.

Please note there is an official ballot drop-box located at the steps of Borough Hall, 176 Park Ave.



Please check the Borough website for important details about the upcoming general election.

Rutherford's HALLOWEEN 2020

House Decorating Contest & Jack-O-Lantern Photo Contest

Check rutherfordboronj.com
for more information



Councilman Mark Goldsack

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Resolution 162-2020 - Passed - This resolution authorizes the Borough to enter into an agreement with the Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund to finance costs related to a settlement agreement approved in August for a lawsuit that was instituted against the Borough in 2014 (Kubs v. Borough of Rutherford). After consulting with our labor attorneys and our representatives at the joint insurance fund, we thought it in the best interests of the Borough to enter into the settlement agreements and further enter into an agreement with the joint insurance fund to finance the costs of the settlement. The agreement with the joint insurance fund authorizes the fund to initially pay the Borough's liability as a result of the settlements (\$450,000) and further establishes that the Borough will pay the fund back for those costs in equal installments of \$90,000 over a period of five years. Please note that this will have no additional impact on taxpayers as we customarily budget for legal settlements on a year to year basis.

Resolution 164-2020 - Passed - This resolution authorizes the Borough to increase the "not to exceed" cap for our special counsel related to the police building project from \$20,000 to \$30,000. Initial funding was expended as the contract award to the low bidder was challenged in court. Our attorney defended the award and won the case saving the Borough in excess of \$400,000 in additional costs if the challenge was successful. The Borough will be retaining our special counsel throughout the construction of our new police building and we want to ensure that funds are available in the event our special counsel's services are needed.

Liaison Assignments

Shade Tree Commission - The Commission is happy to report that the Borough has purchased 75 trees to be planted throughout the Borough for our fall tree planting. As a result of the recent storm, the Borough lost 70 trees and that number may continue to rise. The Borough remains committed to continuing plant trees to replace those that we may have lost as a result of the storm and those that have to be removed because they pose a danger to our residents. We look forward to planting this current shipment of 75 trees and will work on putting together a tree order for a spring planting as well. The Commission will meet again on Tuesday, 10/20 at 7pm.

Planning Board - The Planning Board is scheduled to meet on Thursday, 10/15 at 7pm

Councilwoman Stephanie McGowan

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During Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 4-10 th), as well as the entire month of October, our fire department strives to raise awareness around the practices of fire safety, and ensuring that all residents have a family plan of safety for every member in the unexpected case of a fire. Although one month of the year is dedicated to fire prevention awareness, we are incredibly fortunate to have the Rutherford Volunteer Fire Department prepared to provide support to our residents at the ready. Their selflessness was on full display during the COVID-19 pandemic, and as Fire Commissioner, I can think of no better time to honor each of them as a Rutherford Home-town Hero! The Mayor & Council have been working closely with the fire chiefs to plan for an event to honor each of our fire houses on Sunday, October 18th following COVID-19 safety guidelines. More details will be shared on our Borough website once finalized. Thank you, again, to the incredible men and women of the Rutherford Volunteer Fire Department!

Access for All Rutherford Collaborates with the South Bergen County Access Forum

The Access for All Rutherford Committee will hold their October meeting by participating in the South Bergen County AFA Zoom Forum hosted by Rutherford Councilwoman Stephanie McGowan and Hasbrouck Heights Councilman Chris Hillman on Monday, October 5th at 7pm. Due to the success of our last South Bergen consortium, our AFAR committee was eager to participate with others in advocacy for those with disabilities. Details regarding the zoom call will be available on the Borough website.

Council President Tom Mullahey

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Police Dept - The Council approved the purchase of a new server for the Police Department. The server will not cost the taxpayers

Health Dept - As the Health Department liaison it's my pleasure to announce that the Health Department has not registered a new case of COVID-19 within the Borough in 8 days. This is the longest stretch without a new case within the Borough since the pandemic began. Thank you Rutherford, for being so diligent in your efforts to stay healthy.