



From the desk of Mayor Frank Nunziato

I hope everyone is doing everything possible to stay safe and healthy as our numbers have unfortunately steadily increased in town. As I've addressed before, it's extremely important that our residents refrain from close-quarters events that can act as super-spreaders for the virus.

House parties and indoor gatherings in excess of 25 people are in violation of the executive orders and are irresponsible and counterproductive to all of the hard work we all have done within the Borough.

I'd like you to please read a [statement from Chief Russo](#) regarding the current state of the RPD and his instructions to his force to strictly enforce the Executive Order.

Please check out the upcoming contests the Rec Department is hosting for November and December. We received such positive feedback from our Halloween contests and activities that it seemed natural to continue to provide them to our residents.

Thanks to sponsorships by Neglia Engineering for the November contests and BCB Bank for the Halloween and upcoming holiday contests. The winners of these contests will receive gift certificates to local businesses that need our financial support now more than ever. I'm proud that these contests play a part in giving back to the businesses that often support our schools and community groups during normal times. It's critical that we continue to support them as the winter months approach.

Sincerely,
Mayor Frank Nunziato



[Read Chief Russo's statement regarding Executive Order enforcement](#)

[Committee Applications now available on the Borough website!](#)



[Check out the new Holiday Contests!](#)

[Run Now, Gobble Later Virtual 5K](#)

[Golden Gourd Pursuit](#)

[Holiday House Decorating Contest](#)

[Gingerbread House Decorating Contest](#)



HEALTH

The Rutherford Health Department is pleased to report that they still have additional doses of the seasonal influenza vaccine and are opening the program to all residents three years (3) of age and older, free of charge.

Flu seasons are unpredictable and can be severe. Over a 30 year period of time, estimates of annual flu associated deaths in the United States range from a low of 3,000 to a high of about 49,000 people.

Most of the time seasonal flu activity peaks in January, February or later. It is not too late to receive the influenza vaccine and reduce your chances of getting the flu.

Those interested in receiving the vaccine can contact the public health nurses weekdays between 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM at 201-460-3020 for additional information.

Councilman Ray Guzman

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I am happy to announce that today Nov. 13th, 2020, the application link for [applicants seeking to join Borough Boards, Committee and Commissions for 2021 is now live.](#)

Every current member of a committee will be asked to fill out an application so that the Talent Bank records are clear and consistent. Boards and Commissions have by-laws that dictate specific lengths of terms for their members. Only those whose term is up at the end of 2020 will be asked to submit an application if they choose to continue serving. We feel this new process will ensure residents who are appointed have the appropriate expertise and knowledge needed for these groups.

Library News:

The library will be closed beginning Monday, November 16 as new shelves are installed. Grab & Go will continue while the building is closed.

Council President Tom Mullahey

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I'd like to thank everyone for participating in the Hometown Heroes Banners project this year. The banners will be coming down for the winter but saved and put back up by Memorial Day.

Councilwoman Maria Begg-Roberson

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New Jersey's Comprehensive Plastic Ban

On Wednesday, November 4th, Governor Murphy signed the strictest plastic ban in the United States into law in New Jersey. The ban will not go into effect for 18 months. This will give time to municipalities to prepare for this change. This measure bans all plastic bags at almost all retail stores. Paper bags are also banned at grocery stores over 2500 feet in order to encourage the usage of tote bags. This law bans styrofoam containers. Plastic straws will only be available at a customer's request. The Rutherford Green Team looks forward to supporting our municipality as we implement these changes by 2022.

Marijuana for Adult Use

On October 27th, Assemblyman Gary Schaer and I hosted a virtual panel discussion to debate the pros and cons of marijuana legalization in New Jersey. This was the second panel that we have hosted in the past two years to discuss this important question on the ballot. Panelists, which included Newark Mayor Ras Baraka and Rutherford's Police Chief John Russo, debated the matter with civility and eloquence. The goal of the debate was to ensure residents were educated on the issue before going to the polls.

On November 3rd, New Jersey residents voted to legalize marijuana for adult use. Lawmakers are in the process of fine tuning rules related to many aspects of this legislation related to regulation, testing, and licensing.

Councilman Mark Goldsack

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FINANCE:

Resolution 176 - Endorsing submission of Local Freight Impact Fund Grant Application - Passed The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) makes funds available through the Fiscal Year 2021 Local Freight Impact Fund and solicits proposals for projects aimed toward the advancement of freight projects and movement of large truck traffic that emphasize and enhance safety, renew aging infrastructure and promote economic development. The Borough has identified the repaving of Veteran's Boulevard as a candidate road that meets the criteria of this program. This resolution endorses the Borough's submission of a grant application to the NJDOT for this particular project.

PLANNING BOARD

Resolution 178 - Designating M&M at Rutherford Urban Renewal Company as a Conditional Redeveloper for the area known as Agnew Place Area A - Redevelopment Zone - Passed - his resolution designates M&M at Rutherford Urban Renewal Company as a Conditional Redeveloper for the Agnew Place A Redevelopment Area. After the amendments to increase the height and density of the Agnew Place A Redevelopment Area were unanimously defeated by the Council, M&M, the designated conditional redeveloper for this project for a number of years, has expressed their willingness to move forward with developing a project within the parameters of the redevelopment plan that was approved for this area in April of 2019. We look forward to working with M&M to develop a project that benefits the Borough both economically and aesthetically.

The developer is committed to a project for the entire designated area; especially the former DPW site. This property is a significant reason why redevelopment is needed in this area. While other property owners have expressed interest in redeveloping their own properties, they don't address the most critical property in the area and the Borough's overall vision when the redevelopment plan was adopted.

Councilwoman Stephanie McGowan

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Provisional ballots will be counted on Saturday, November 14th starting 9am at the Gym at Bergen Community College Paramus. No one other than election officials and staff will be permitted in the gym due to social distancing protocols. The entire session will be live streamed and can be found on the [County's website](#).

55 Kip Center Festival of Trees & Wreaths Fundraiser

Tuesday-Friday 9am-3pm

Saturday November 28 & December 5th: 11am-3pm

Saturday December 12th: 9am-12:30pm

Call 201-460-1600 for more information.

All NJ guidelines and mandates specific to facility capacity, mask wearing, and social distancing will be adhered to.