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Borough of Rutherford NJ

From the desk of Mayor Frank Nunziato

Congratulations to the RHS Boys' Soccer team for their 3-1 upset victory over top-seeded Demarest in the finals of the North, East D tournament, in Demarest last week! Our community is very proud of this team and I'm happy to announce the Borough will host a victory parade past the players' houses. Details for this are currently being worked on.

On Friday, Police Captain Patrick Feliciano and myself collected and delivered 400 stacks of take-out menus from Rutherford restaurants to Goffin's 64. I'd like to thank Barry Goffin for looking out for his fellow small business owners during this time by handing out re-usable insulated bags containing these menus to his customers. Our restaurants need our community now more than ever as they may become dependent on take-out orders this winter. Any restaurants who are not yet represented can drop menus at Goffin's 64 Park Ave and they will be added.

I'd also like to thank the DPW, Rutherford Police Department, Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Corps for making the Festive Holiday Float and Tree Lighting happen on Saturday. During these trying times it's nice to have something festive for our residents to enjoy. But these types of events don't happen without the our Borough employees and volunteers. I appreciate all your efforts and hard work.

Don't forget to check out the holiday-themed contests the Rec Department is organizing this year. Stop by Lincoln Park beginning Dec. 7 to see the Winter Wonderland of Rutherford organizations!

Sincerely,
Mayor Frank Nunziato

Committee Applications
now available on the
Borough website!



**Check out the
new Holiday Contests!**

Holiday House Decorating Contest
Gingerbread House Decorating Contest

Regional Community Drive-Thru COVID-19 Testing

Hosted by

Bergen Community College- Lot A
400 Paramus Road, Paramus, NJ

Starts December 1st!

12/1, 12/3, *12/5, 12/7, 12/9, 12/10, 12/14, 12/16, 12/17,
*12/19, 12/21, 12/22, 12/23, 12/28, 12/29 & 12/30

Saturday sites operate from 9AM-2PM

Check-in begins at 8AM
Testing begins promptly from 9AM - 2:30PM

Nasal Swab Antigen Test

COVID-19 nasal swab antigen test which allows for rapid results in just 24 hours.

Bring

- ✓ Identification (driver's license/ID card, social security card, passport or birth certificate)
- ✓ Proof of Bergen County Residency, School ID, or Employment with Municipal or County government (copy of lease, driver's license, utility bill, work ID)
- ✓ Insurance card, if applicable

YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER!

NO WALK-UPS AVAILABLE

Please note, you must bring your mobile device for check-in

<https://www.research.net/AntigenBCCC>



ALL MOBILE TESTING SITES ARE WEATHER PERMITTING
In case of inclement weather, please visit www.co.bergen.nj.us for updates.



Council President Tom Mullahey

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Last meeting, Mayor Nunziato officially promoted four members of our RPD. The promotions were a result of an ordinance I sponsored back in the summer. The ordinance expanded the leadership roles within the department. Congratulations Captain Sean Farrell, Lieutenant David Dovalo, Lieutenant Michael Garner and Sergeant Vincent Callan on your promotions.

We also passed amendments to the Rent Control Ordinance. This ordinance establishes a rent board in the Borough.

Councilman Mark Goldsack

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FINANCE:

Authorization for Neglia Engineering to engage in design and engineering services related to various storm and sanitary improvements in an amount not to exceed \$17,240.00 - Passed - This resolution authorizes Neglia Engineering to commence design and engineering services related to various storm and sanitary improvements in and throughout the Borough including storm drainage improvements along Riverside Terrace, sanitary sewer improvements in the Williams Plaza, and drainage improvements at the intersection of Darwin and Monona Avenue.

LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS:

Community Events - This past Saturday the Borough celebrated the kick off to the holiday season with a parade throughout town which included live music, Elsa and Olaf and most importantly, Santa Claus! The parade culminated in our annual tree lighting which can be viewed on our Borough website and social media page. I'd like to thank Mayor Nunziato for his continued hard work during this difficult year to ensure that we do our very best to bring joy into the lives of all of our residents. I'd also like to thank Cliff Witmeyer from Cliffhanger Productions who helped organize and execute the event. Lastly, thank you to our Department of Public Works for decorating the town and planting and decorating the tree. The beautiful decorations help keep all of Rutherford in the holiday spirit.

Shade Tree Commission - The Shade Tree Commission met on 11/24 to discuss potential updates to the Shade Tree Ordinance. Specifically, the Commission wants to expand who has authority to enforce the provisions of the ordinance and voted to allow the Chairman of the Commission, in addition to the Superintendent of the Department of Public Works, to have enforcement authority. The Commission will now begin the process of working with the Borough Attorneys to have the ordinance amended to reflect this change.

A Note on Redevelopment - I just wanted to take a moment to address the ongoing process of redevelopment in the Borough. Over the past few meetings we have been asked for updates on the various potential redevelopment projects so I just wanted to take a moment to offer updates:

Agnew - The amendments to increase the size and density of this project were defeated. Since then M&M has been re-designated as the conditional redeveloper and has expressed their willingness to design a plan consistent with the currently approved redevelopment plan for this area. That plan can be found on the Borough website (www.rutherfordboronj.com/land-use-redevelopment/areas-of-redevelopment/agnew/). Please note, once a site plan is finalized by the redeveloper, the redeveloper would need a site plan approval from the Planning Board before they could proceed.

Parker - The redeveloper of the Parker has made his intentions known to the Borough that he wishes to expand the current project onto the adjacent properties that he currently owns. In order to do so we must first determine whether or not the area constitutes an area in need or redevelopment under the Redevelopment Law. To do this a study must be performed by the Planning Board. The Council must pass a resolution instructing the Planning Board to initiate the study. The Council has not yet passed this resolution.

Williams Center - The County has informed the Borough of their intention to auction the property. Council President Mullahey, in consultation with the Williams Center Redevelopment Committee, are in the process of finalizing a redevelopment plan for this area. We hope to have this plan before the Council for review and public comment at one of our two December meetings.

We understand the desire of the community to have frequent updates regarding redevelopment. Unfortunately, because the redevelopment process has numerous steps that involves constant back and forth between the Borough and the various redevelopers, we do not and will not always have an update to offer. However, please know that as we negotiate these various potential projects, we make known to the redevelopers all of the comments, questions, and concerns you have shared with us over the last few months. Additionally, please know that when we have something to present, it will be done by way of public session with the opportunity for the public to provide input either before the Mayor and Council, Planning Board, or both.

Councilwoman Maria Begg-Roberson

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Gratitude and Hope

2020 has been a year of many surprises, yet, as we approach the holiday season, there is still so much to be thankful for. I am grateful for our beautiful town that is truly a hidden gem. I am grateful for the friends that I have made and the family that we have created in this town.

I am grateful for our school system that is striving to provide safe, healthy, and high-quality education to our children. I am grateful for all our borough employees who work diligently upholding the highest standards to protect our quality of life. I am grateful for our downtown businesses that are working with such creativity during this difficult time. And I am hopeful for the future, that after this unprecedented time, the smoke will clear revealing a bright future to look forward to.

“Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear. If we believe that tomorrow will be better, we can bear a hardship today.” – Thich Nhat Hanh