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December 3, 2021

Rutherford's **HOLIDAY** 2021

REC

2021 Holiday Contests and Activities! Receive A Letter From Santa!

If you have a very special child who lives in Rutherford to receive a letter in the mail from the North Pole this holiday season, please provide the information below by MIDNIGHT, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12TH. The elves, with the help of the Rutherford Rec Department, are working very hard at getting the letters in the mail and to the child's house by December 25th.

Holiday Contests back by popular demand!

- Holiday House Decorating Contest - Registration Required by 12/13
*Must already have, or sign up for, a RecDesk account in order to register. Prizes will be awarded Sunday, Dec. 19th with a caravan!
- Gingerbread House Decorating Contest

FEMA Registration Deadline Dec. 6

NJ Storm Survivors: FEMA Registration Deadline Approaching for NJ homeowners & renters with property damage or loss caused by remnants of Hurricane Ida from Sept. 1-3 - the deadline to apply is Mon, Dec 6, 2021

For more information: <http://DisasterAssistance.gov>.

From the Desk of Mayor Frank Nunziato

Thank you for a great kick off to the Holiday Season, Rutherford! Watching Santa travel through town with live music, lighting our holiday tree by the Library and seeing you all at the Holiday Village in Lincoln Park on Saturday really made it feel like the Rutherford we remember pre-before COVID. Next year I'm looking forward to many more events like this. I know I had a great time on Saturday and hope you did too!

There's another aspect that makes Rutherford special, and that's our dedicated Borough employees. This past Tuesday Brian O'Keefe, our Health Official of 43 years, retired. Over four decades of service to one town is not just a major accomplishment but a gift to the community. Brian has not just been an employee for all those years but has also served 48 years as a member of the Volunteer Ambulance Corps. where I served along side him for several years and where he will continue to volunteer in retirement. Brian remained steady and reliable as he helped guide Rutherford through an unprecedented pandemic. I will be forever grateful to have had him by my side as COVID unfolded during my first days as Mayor.

Many residents don't realize how many of our employees also volunteer their time for the community whether it be with the Ambulance Corps., Fire Department or elsewhere. During this holiday season let us all be thankful for their dedication to keeping our town a wonderful place to work and live.

We can't all give decades to Rutherford like Brian has, but if you've ever considered volunteering, Rutherford has all kinds of opportunities.

Sincerely,
- Mayor Frank Nunziato



Help shape the future of The Rutherford Public Library!
Take the Strategic Planning Committee's survey at

www.rutherfordlibrary.org
or visit the Library at 150 Park Ave

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www.rutherfordboronj.com/notifications

Council President Mark Goldsack

mgoldsack@rutherfordboronj.com

I'd like to wish Brian O'Keefe a wonderful retirement. His guidance has been a tremendous resource to Rutherford for over 40 years and especially during the time of COVID. Thank you, Brian for your dedication to our community!

Councilwoman Maria Begg-Roberson

mbegg-roberson@rutherfordboronj.com

Rutherford Pride Alliance New Year's Eve Party (RPA)

The RPA is partnering with the Rutherford Arts Council (RAC) in hosting a New Year's Eve party on Friday, December 31, at 8:30 pm and the Elks Club. There will be retro jams, interactive art, and door prizes. The proceeds from this fundraiser go to Rutherford's first ever Pride Fest!! Go to bit.ly/neonnewyears for more information. Proof of vaccination is needed to enter the event.

Green Team

The Green Team is working diligently to prepare our businesses for the most comprehensive plastic ban in the nation which will go into effect. Beginning May 4, 2022, the law prohibits all Stores (including retail), Food Service Businesses, and Grocery Stores from selling to, or providing their customers with, single-use plastic carryout bags. In addition, Grocery Stores larger than 2,500 square feet may not provide or sell single-use paper carryout bags, and instead may provide or sell only reusable carryout bags. Members of the Green Team have been visiting businesses and informing them of how this important legislation will affect them moving forward.

Councilman Ray Guzman

rguzman@rutherfordboronj.com

Rutherford Public Library Community Survey

Rutherford Public Library is embarking on the creation of a brand new 5-year strategic plan, and we want to hear from you! In order to ensure our services best meet the needs of Rutherford residents, we are conducting a community survey. Please take a few minutes to fill it out; your feedback is important to us whether you currently use the library or not: <https://forms.gle/1xhzrH5vLjQdkRCa9>

Councilman Matthew Cokeley

mcokeley@rutherfordboronj.com

Rutherford FD: 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.

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

Best Wishes On Your Retirement, Brian O'Keefe! Welcome Aboard, Jennifer Galarza!



Brian O'Keefe, Jennifer Galarza and Mayor Frank Nunziato

Earlier this week, Rutherford Health Official Brian O'Keefe retired after 43 years of service to the Borough. Brian has been an integral part of Rutherford for decades and he will be missed.

The new Rutherford Health Official is Jennifer Galarza. Jennifer comes to Rutherford from Englewood where she was a Senior Registered Health Specialist with many certifications. Jennifer speaks English and Spanish, is a member of the NJ Environmental Health Association and the NJ Association for Food Protection.

Dr. Joseph DeFazio, President of the Board of Health, adds "It has been a pleasure working with Brian as a member of the Board and currently as the President of the Board of Health. He has shown, throughout his career, the utmost professionalism in dealing with Borough residents and with the members of the Board. His knowledge of public health issues, policies and procedures is exemplary. I wish him all the best in his retirement. I know that Jennifer is the perfect replacement for Brian. She comes to us with many years of experience in public health and will use her experience and knowledge for the betterment of our Rutherford residents."

Jennifer says "My personal goal is to improve the health of our community through education. I feel that knowledge is powerful and with this knowledge you are able to make an informed decision for yourself and your family."

Welcome aboard, Jennifer! And best wishes, Brian!