

From the Desk of Mayor Frank Nunziato

By now hopefully you've seen the Rutherfordforward 2021 document I had the opportunity to present last week.

[If you haven't seen it, please take a moment to read it here.](#) It's lengthy and detailed, but this document is the first of its kind to be published during my time as an elected official in Rutherford.

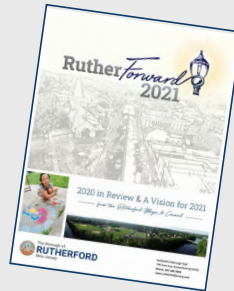
This document is a snapshot of how Rutherford's community and employees weathered 2020. It also presents a glimpse into what the Council and I hope can be accomplished in the current year and beyond.

A tremendous amount of work went into making this document a reality. I'd like to thank all the Borough employees and Councilmembers who took the time to contribute to it. I'd especially like to thank Council President Mark Goldsack for taking the lead on this project as well as communications and social media coordinator, Kim Bogosian, who took an idea that Mark and I had and made sure it was presented in a clean and concise manner to the public.

One of the visions for 2021 I'd like to discuss here is Rutherford Day. After being deprived of so many of the events we all enjoy last year, I'm looking into the feasibility of planning a day for residents to celebrate being part of this great community. This will be contingent on COVID restrictions being lifted. However if the science agrees, the Borough will look to have a plan in place to execute this event in a safe way that will be able to be enjoyed by residents of all ages, culminating in a fireworks celebration at Memorial Field. Community Events liaison, Councilman Mullahey, and I will be working with various community groups to provide a safe, fun-filled day utilizing all our parks.

If you are a member of a community group in Rutherford that might want to participate in Rutherford Day, or are interested in a sponsorship opportunity, please contact Kim Bogosian at communications@rutherfordboronj.com so we can begin to get a sense of who is interested and start to make tentative plans.

- Mayor Frank Nunziato



DPW

A Message from the DPW Shade Tree Division About Spring Tree Removal and Replacement

The DPW Shade Tree Division has identified 22 trees on Lincoln Avenue and Wilson Ave between Woodland Ave and Marginal Ave to be removed and replaced this spring.

Construction of sound walls on Rt. 3 caused the removal of established trees in the area. By doing so, the natural wind barrier was removed, leaving the remaining trees vulnerable during strong storms and high winds. Some of these trees have fallen, causing property damage and unsafe conditions.

Existing wind conditions will be taken into account when new, appropriate trees are replanted in that area to prevent similar issues in the future. We will share more information regarding reforestation of this area as it becomes available.

REC

Heart Healthy February Updates

- Family Swim night with the Rutherford Swim Association on 02/15 & 02/23, with the current capacity we had 24 residents enjoy a fun swim night!
- Partnership with Backstage Performing Arts Center for a fun family Zumba this past Saturday with 35 families shaking, moving & dancing safely from their homes.
- Coming up we will have a Heart Healthy Cooking class, with Executive Chef & General Manger Erica Russo. We currently have 29 registered families to cook along with Chef Russo for a delicious tutorial of Salmon in parchment. Matera's even took a further step by creating a pick-up box at Matera's on Park that has all the ingredients to make healthy dinner at home.
- And we will be ending the heart healthy month with a free Family dance class on Saturday 02/27, where families can participate in a range of more classical moves from ballet, tap & jazz with volunteer Ms. Gina!

All instructors have donated their time to make the Borough of Rutherford a little more active & healthier this month. We are very grateful for their support!

Wrestling Sign-ups

- Wrestlers will require one year of wrestling experience
- Grades 3rd-8th grade
- Will begin week of March 1st
- Will end week of March 31st



Council Reports

Council President Mark Goldsack

mgoldsack@rutherfordboronj.com

Authorization for Borough Attorney to review process of issuing consumption liquor licenses within the Borough and advise Mayor and Council as to next steps - Passed - This past November's ballot included a non-binding public question as to whether or not the Borough should allow consumption liquor licenses within its boundaries. The non-binding question passed by a 53% - 47% margin. In light of its passage the Mayor has asked Councilman Mullahey and I to begin the process of working with our attorneys to determine the steps the Borough would need to take to possibly begin implementation. This first step authorizes the attorneys to begin their research and report back to the Mayor and Council as to the next steps.

Finance

Resolution No. 59 – Enter into a Community Development Block Grant Agreement with Bergen County for ADA improvements to Borough Hall - Passed - This resolution authorizes the Mayor and Council to enter into a grant agreement with Bergen County in the amount of \$92,900 from the 2020-2021 grant cycle for the purpose of ADA improvements and a ramp entrance to Borough Hall.

Liaison Assignments

Planning Board – The Planning Board met this past Thursday 2/18. Again, thank you to Councilman Mullahey and the Williams Center Redevelopment committee for all of their hard work in getting a plan drafted for Planning Board review. Thank you to all of the residents who attended the Planning Board meeting. We had a lively discussion where both the board members and the residents in attendance shared their thoughts, questions and concerns. I would also like to thank Chairman Doren and Vice-Chair Rapetti for running an excellent meeting. Ultimately, it was decided that the Board will have a workshop regarding the Williams Center redevelopment plan, which is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 4th, where we will work with our Planner and Engineer to address all of the comments, questions and concerns that were brought up by the board and the residents. Please keep in mind that the job of the Planning Board in this particular step in the process is to determine whether or not the draft redevelopment plan conforms with the goals of our master plan

Citizens Finance Advisory Committee - Congratulations to the newly appointed members of the committee! They are John Errico, Andrew Sun, Noha Nakhla, Art Certosimo, Thomas Weber and Sean Boman. We will begin our work on the 2021 municipal budget soon. Looking forward to working with everyone!

Shade Tree Commission - The Shade Tree Commission met on 2/9. I would like to congratulate Frank Sasso who was elected Chairman for the upcoming year. I would also like to welcome our new member John Trosky. I had the opportunity to work with Mr. Trosky on the Historic Preservation Commission and I know him to be someone who deeply cares about our Borough and who is not afraid to roll his sleeves up and do the work asked of him. The Commission plans on working on three major initiatives this year: 1) a review and revamping of our ordinance; 2) a pilot sidewalk safety program; and 3) a town wide tree inventory and risk assessment. These will be in addition to our ongoing efforts to plant more trees throughout the Borough. More information on these initiatives will be communicated in the coming weeks and months.

Public Information - In continuing with Mayor Nunziato's commitment to transparency, this past Friday we released our RutherfordForward 2021 document. This document reflects on all we accomplished in 2020 despite the pandemic, and offers an opportunity for us to say thank you to all those Borough employees who worked tirelessly in adverse conditions to continue to deliver services to our residents. The document also offers a preview of everything we would like to accomplish in 2021. Additionally, it provides valuable information regarding redevelopment in Rutherford, which we all know is a topic of great importance. I'd like to thank my colleagues, Borough Administrator Bob Kakoleski and our department heads for the valuable insight they offered as we put this document together. I could not be prouder of the final product. I would like to offer a special thank you to our communications and social media coordinator, Kim Bogosian, who took an idea that the Mayor and I had and worked alongside us over the past few months to ensure that it was written, assembled, and presented in such a way that we can all be proud of. Mayor Nunziato has repeatedly expressed his commitment to communication and transparency and this document is a shining example of that commitment. This is something that has never been done before in our Borough. Please take the time to look it over. It will allow us to continue to work to move Rutherford forward together.



Councilwoman Stephanie McGowan

smcgowan@rutherfordboronj.com

Municipal Alliance:

Rutherford Municipal Alliance come together with RPD and 55 Kip to help prevent drug overdoses by purchasing Deterra Drug Deactivation and Disposal Pouches with DEDR (Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction) penalties imposed in drug-related offenses funding. Deterra Pouches safely dispose of unwanted or unused medication to prevent the misuse of them. We have looped in the Bulldog Academy to assist in labeling them with our logo and that of GCADA (Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse)

Access for All:

- Co-Chairs Terry Spetell and Laura Scotti are working toward welcoming new members and setting a meeting schedule. They would like to offer a workshop about COVID-19 vaccinations and impact/assistance for the special needs community.
- Councilman Chris Hillman of Hasbrouck Heights and I continue to spearhead the South Bergen Access for All group via zoom in March. We are partnering with the Bergen County Division of Disability Services Acting Director Anika Davis, to provide speakers on essential and timely topics impacting the lives of the uniquely abled and their care takers. This group is scheduled to meet every other month and is open to anyone in South Bergen County committed to championing issues regarding access for all. Councilman Hillman and I will be presenting our collective work in the Access for All movement to the newly formed Oradell for All committee on March 16th .

Stigma Free:

- Co-chairs Joanne Fiume and Cheryl Wloch Rapetti will be working with the recreation department, Rutherford Public Schools, and community organizations in organizing a poster/essay content specific to raising the awareness of mental and behavior health issues this May in accordance with Mental Health Awareness Month. More details to come.

55 Kip Center:

Continues to offer the Grab and Go Healthy Breakfast program. The center gives out approximately 70 bags of food to participants. The program is sponsored in part by the Bergen County Division of Senior Services.

Councilman Matthew Cokeley

mcokeley@rutherfordboronj.com

Fire: Mayor and Council would like to welcome Michael Pisciotta into the ranks of the Rutherford Fire Department, Engine Company No. 4. As always, we thank all members of the RFD and their families for their service.

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 or myself (mcokeley@rutherfordboronj.com) and we can connect you with the Rutherford Food Pantry.

Arts Committee: 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 for Youth Arts Month. The theme will be "Art Connects Us". The entry fee will be \$50 and payable to The Borough of Rutherford. This fee covers the cost of printing and installation of the banners along our business district avenues. Families will take possession of printed artwork once the term of installation ends prior to Memorial Day. Deadline for entries is March 12th. Entry forms and detailed submission information can be found here under Banner-Youth Art: www.rutherfordboronj.com/departments/borough-clerk/permits-licenses/

Further, Creative Bergen is sponsoring an Arts Amble this coming June. If you are interested in participating, you can read more about the effort and apply as an artist or venue here: <https://artsamble.org/>

Felician: Friday, March 5th, Felician University is hosting the Felician Autism Collaboration & Telehealth Conference. This virtual conference is for educators, family members, caretakers, and community members looking to engage in dialogue about the advances in autism research. You can register for the event here: <https://felician.edu/eventer/factconference/>

Data & Science Committee: The D&SC hosted its very first meeting this week. It is comprised of some of the brightest minds in Rutherford. I look forward to communicating more information and developments as work gets underway in the coming months. Meetings will be closed to the general public for the first half of the year while the engineering, backend and operation systems are developed.

The Rutherford Report



The Borough of
RUTHERFORD
New Jersey

rutherfordboronj.com



On Twitter:
@Rutherford07070



On Facebook:
Borough of Rutherford NJ

February 26, 2021

Councilwoman Maria Begg-Roberson

mbegg-roberson@rutherfordboronj.com

Rutherford Civil Rights Commission (RCRC)

The RCRC is planning cultural events for all residents to engage in. On Wednesday, February 24th, the RCRC hosted a poetic celebration of Black History Month. They heard a number of poems by residents and some poets reading their own words.

The RCRC is now in the process of planning for International Women's Month in March, which is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society. Please look out for upcoming events on the RCRC's Facebook page.

Green Team

Rutherford Recreation will begin assigning beds in the community garden for the 2021 season on a first-come, first-served basis beginning on Monday, March 1.

The price is \$30 per bed, and residents should pay for and reserve their beds on Community Pass. (For help with reservations, please call the Recreation Department at 201 460 3015.) There will be a limit of ONE BED PER FAMILY at first. If there are unclaimed beds as of June 1, then existing gardeners may rent an additional bed.

The link to Community Pass: <https://www.rutherfordboronj.com/departments/recreation/community-pass/>

The link to the rules and application: <https://www.rutherfordboronj.com/committees/green-team/2021/02/23/2021-community-garden/>

Councilman Ray Guzman

rguzman@rutherfordboronj.com

The Borough has begun conversations regarding to how to prioritize improvements in and around Sunset Park in anticipation of a long term beautification project.

Councilman Tom Mullahey

tmullahey@rutherfordboronj.com

Police

Congratulations to Officer Anthony Bachmann who was recently awarded with a Traffic Safety Specialist Level 2 certification by Kean University, along with NJDHTS, NJSP, NJPTOA, and Rutgers University. Officer Bachmann earned a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Sociology from Centenary University before joining our department in 2013. In 2016 Officer Bachmann was assigned to the Traffic Bureau as the Traffic Coordinator.

Health Department

I'd like to thank Fairmont Industries for their donation \$1,500 donation of defibrillators to the Borough.

It's come to our attention that since the January 25th, 2021 Bergen Record front page article entitled "Bergen County Spent \$1.4 million On Bonuses For Employees" has made residents ask if the Rutherford Health Department staff also received bonuses for COVID-19 in 2020. The answer is no. At the onset of the pandemic, the council unanimously approved hazard pay for Health Department nurses, when the nurses began working beyond their typical 35 hour work in order to keep up with demanding contact tracing schedules as COVID cases increased. The council again approved hazard pay in January 2021 for the Health Department's continued efforts to maintain the quality of our contact tracing.

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.bcua.org for additional information.

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

Recycle! Printed on recycled paper.