

Commemorating One Year Since The Beginning Of The Pandemic

Today marks the one year anniversary of the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in our community. On behalf of my colleagues, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on how it has impacted Rutherford.

On March 12th of last year, our team began making the first of what would become many first decisions to ensure the health and safety of our Borough. We were of course not unique in our position, as every other town in the area was tasked with making the same difficult decisions. But I will always believe that Rutherford was unique in how well it adjusted to sudden adversity.

We have been through a lot over the past year. Together we dealt with economic hardship, the inability to spend precious time with family and friends, and most tragically, the loss of loved ones.

However, despite these extremely difficult circumstances, we witnessed Rutherford at her very best. We witnessed a community committed to each other, committed to supporting each other by any means possible. Whether it was delivering food to those unable to get to a store, parents supporting each other through the challenges of home schooling, parades to show our thanks to first

responders, or just a friendly phone call to check in, Rutherford proved to be the amazing community we all know it is.

I'd like to thank all of our first responders for their dedication to our residents over the course of the pandemic. I'd like to thank our Borough employees for their willingness to continue to work to ensure that our residents never experienced a break in services.

As we approach the year anniversary of this tragic time, let us remember all those we've lost, but let us also reflect on how lucky we truly are to be a part of such a great community. Thank you, Rutherford.

Sincerely,

Mayor Frank Nunziato
Council President Mark Goldsack
Councilwoman Stephanie McGowan
Councilman Tom Mullahey
Councilwoman Maria Begg-Roberson
Councilman Ray Guzmán
Councilman Matthew Cokeley
Borough Administrator Bob Kakoleski



Images from Rutherford Salute To Heroes Parades in 2020



From the Desk of The Borough Administrator

Municipal Budget

Yesterday, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Under the Act, State and Local governments are due to receive aid to make up for revenue shortfalls they experienced during 2020. It has been reported that Rutherford will be receiving aid as a result of this legislation. However, until we have more information about how we are able to utilize the funds we will be receiving under the law, we will be delaying the introduction of our municipal budget until the beginning of April. This is still within the timeframe allowed by state law to adopt a budget and will allow the Borough to better maximize the impact on residents and determine its best use.

Youth Arts Banner Deadline extended to Monday, March 15th!



See your child's artwork, new or old,
displayed on Park Ave!

[Apply here:](#)

<https://www.rutherfordboronj.com/departments/borough-clerk/permits-licenses/>

Email artwork to:

rutherfordartscouncil@gmail.com

Council Reports

Council President Mark Goldsack

mgoldsack@rutherfordboronj.com

Finance

Resolution No. 69-2021 – Resolution Authorizing the Borough Administrator to Enter into An Agreement with the Rutherford Department Head Unit - Passed -This resolution authorizes the Borough Administrator to enter into a seven (7) year agreement with our Department Head bargaining unit which begins retroactively on 1/1/2018 and ends on 12/31/24. I'd like to thank our Borough Administrator, Robert Kakoleski, for all of his hard work in negotiating a fair and equitable agreement with our department heads who work so hard for and are so dedicated to the residents of our Borough.

Liaison Assignments

Planning Board – The Planning Board held a productive workshop regarding the Williams Center Redevelopment Plan on 3/4/21. Thank you to our Borough Engineer Brian Intindola for taking the time to address many of the questions that came up in our previous meeting from both the board and the public. Our next meeting will be held on 3/18/21 to continue with our consistency review of the Williams Center Redevelopment Plan. As always, we welcome public attendance and comment.

Citizens Finance Advisory Committee - Thank you to Mayor Nunziato for appointing the remaining member of the committee. I will be reaching out to all of the members to begin working on our review of the upcoming municipal budget. I'm looking forward to working with everyone!

Shade Tree Commission - The Commission met on 3/9/21 at 6 pm. The Commission began its review and possible overhaul of our implementing ordinance. Our goal is to bring our ordinance up to date so it is more in line with current Borough circumstances and Shade Tree division operations.

Ordinances

Ordinance 3549-21 – Authorizing the Execution of a Financial Agreement Between the Borough and Linque – H.C. Partners Urban Renewal LLC - Passed on First Reading This ordinance authorizes the execution of a financial agreement between the Borough and Linque - H.C. Partners Urban Renewal LLC for the Highland Cross Redevelopment project in the Meadowlands. This project will produce a state of the art industrial distribution warehouse which will generate much needed revenue for the Borough with minimal impact on our resources. Additionally, the project will create 150 temporary construction jobs and 211 permanent jobs. Beyond the warehouse itself, the project will include roadway and associated public infrastructure improvements in the Borough including expanding and improving the Borough's DPW Parking lot which improvements will include re-stripping the parking area to create 12 net additional parking spaces and providing space for 9 large bus parking spaces and 8 small bus parking spaces. We look forward to work commencing in the near future.

Ordinance 3548-21 – Ordinance Vacating Portion of Borough Street at Intersection of Borough Street and Veteran's Boulevard - Passed on First Reading Rutherford is vacating this portion of Borough Street pursuant to the redevelopment agreement with Linque Equities.



Councilwoman Stephanie McGowan

smcgowan@rutherfordboronj.com

Recreation Update:

To conclude a very untraditional season, the Recreation Department sponsored "Basketball Jam" on Saturday March 7, 2021. Basketball Jam had about 200 boys and girls participate from grades 3-8 and even had some knock-out tournaments for added fun.

Currently registration is still open for children ages 7-14 years old to participate in the Recreation Department's track and field activities. Space is very limited and interested participants to register through the Recreation Dept as soon as possible.

Congratulations to Chef Erica Russo from Mater's for her very successful virtual learn-to-cook seminar! Due to the success of the February event, Chef Erica has decided to offer a 2nd virtual cooking demonstration on March 23rd .

This event is focused on kids honing their skills as the next culinary stars! The planned menu is stuffed shells.

Please contact the Recreation Department to register for Spring into Cooking!

Celebrating March 8th: International Women's Day

This year, the International Women's Day theme is #ChooseToChallenge. I had the amazing fortune of being invited to the United Nations in February 2018, in observance of the Summit for Women and Girls in Science. I was granted the incredible opportunity to speak about the evolving roles of women in our modern communities. I was able to invite women who served the Borough of Rutherford in non-traditional female roles from our Police & Fire Depts and proudly record their names in history from the floor of that most important place. I was able to remind listeners from around the globe the important contributions that we as women make in our society as educated professionals, elected officials, and the most traditional and sacred role- as mother.

Now in my seventh year as Councilwoman for the Borough of Rutherford, I am always mindful that my time on the dais is temporary, but my chance to inspire young girls and fellow women from across our community to be socially engaged and change-makers may be life-long. Therefore, I challenge every resident of Rutherford to #ChooseToChallenge the stereotypes and limitations we knowingly or unknowingly place on women in our lives and in our community. Let Rutherford be the community that honors decorum in how we speak and act toward each other and let us continue to champion the voice of women in building this community and in leadership of it as well. Eleanor Roosevelt once said, " No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." Together, I hope we can honor this annual day of acknowledgement for women as a reminder that Rutherford does not consent to the mistreatment of women, and that women's rights are indeed human rights.

Councilwoman Maria Begg-Roberson

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Rutherford Civil Rights Commission (RCRC)

Calling all artists and anyone with art in their heart!
So.... everyone!

Rutherford Civil Rights Commission (RCRC) in Partnership with the Rutherford Arts Council (RAC) is proud to announce: The First Annual Rutherford Women's History Month Art Celebration Honoring Women Who Have Challenged the Norms

Rutherford Artists of all ages, children thru adults, are invited to submit portraits of women who they believe have challenged the status quo and forged new paths for women.

Portraits in any medium are welcome.

2D Artwork is encouraged to be submitted framed, if possible.

Paper, prints, canvas, etc. should be minimally 8"x10" and no larger than 24"x 36"

Sculptures and 3D pieces should be small enough to be displayed on table tops with other pieces.

All portraits should clearly include:

THE NAME OF THE WOMAN depicted and ONE ADJECTIVE to describe her.

All artwork should be original, family friendly and free of profanity and appropriate for young viewers.

RCRC and RAC want to give a special thanks to Rutherford Coffee Company for allowing us to curate an Art Gallery of submitted works for the culmination of the Women's History Month!

A Virtual Art Walk of all submitted pieces will be made available online as well!

Please contact Ginny Perrin
at Rutherfordcivilrightscomm@gmail.com
for further details!

Artwork due by Friday, March 26, 2021!

The Rutherford Report



The Borough of
RUTHERFORD
New Jersey

rutherfordboronj.com

March 12, 2021



On Twitter:
@Rutherford07070



On Facebook:
Borough of Rutherford NJ

Councilman Ray Guzmán

rguzman@rutherfordboronj.com

I'm pleased to announce the Rutherford Public Library is now on Instagram! Follow their new account for library news, upcoming events, book recommendations, and more at [instagram.com/rutherfordlibrary](https://www.instagram.com/rutherfordlibrary). You may also find the library on Facebook at [facebook.com/RutherfordPublicLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/RutherfordPublicLibrary).

Additionally, the library has a full slate of virtual and grab and go programs for all ages throughout March, including children's events each Friday morning on Facebook Live. [Visit the library's website and click on the Calendar tab](#) for a full list of programs and registration.

Resolutions 67 & 68 - Resolutions Authorizing the Borough to Enter into Shared Services Agreements with the County of Bergen for a Road Resurfacing program and associated ADA Ramp Construction and/or Improvements - Passed -

These resolutions authorize the Borough to enter into shared service agreements with Bergen County to facilitate a county road resurfacing program which will include ADA ramp construction and/or improvements of applicable crosswalks. This year we are pleased to announce that one of the priority roads for the County will be Union Avenue. We will be sure to share more information related to the schedule of the road resurfacing program as we receive it.

Councilman Tom Mullahey

tmullahey@rutherfordboronj.com

Police Headquarters Update

Now that the weather has broken, the construction company has completed the drilling of 51 pilings within the site where our new Police Headquarters will be. The next step is the excavation of the site. Next week, anyone driving around the area of Borough Hall should anticipate large construction vehicles removing dirt from the site. This project will be moving at its anticipated speed with a completion estimate of June 2022, barring any unexpected weather events.

Community Events

After becoming the Academic Decathlon State Champions of New Jersey, I'm happy to announce that the Rutherford High School Academic Decathlon team members will receive commendations during a drive-by caravan on Saturday, March 27. Great work guys!

On Saturday, April 3rd, the Easter Bunny will be driving around Rutherford accompanied by our first responders. We'll provide time and details as they become available.

Councilman Matthew Cokeley

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Arts Committee: The deadline for artwork created by our resident children under the age of 18 for Youth Arts Month has been extended to Monday, March 15th. 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. Entry forms and detailed submission information can be found here under Banner-Youth Art: <https://www.rutherfordboronj.com/departments/borough-clerk/permits-licenses/>

Felician University

Felician University's Center for Innovation and Professional Studies (CFIPS) launched the NJ chapter of Women in Big Data (WiBD) on March 8, in recognition of International Women's Day. More can be found here: <https://felician.edu/news/cfips-proudly-launches-wibd-nj-chapter-on-international-womens-day/>

Fire: 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.