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Borough of Rutherford NJ

March 18, 2022

From the Desk of Mayor Frank Nunziato

We're happy to announce that beginning March 28th, following the next Mayor and Council meeting, all public meetings for the Borough Mayor/Council, Boards and Commissions will once again be held in person at Borough Hall. Also, all Borough appointed committee meetings will have Borough facilities available to them for in-person meetings.

For two years, COVID and construction forced these public meetings to be held virtually. Fortunately, we have reached the point where we can safely reopen our meeting rooms to the public.

Council Chambers and the Red Room in Borough Hall will be available as well as the Tamblin Field Civic Center. Non-Borough meetings will also be permitted based on availability of space. Requests will be considered after June 1st as Borough appointed boards, commissions and committees will have first opportunity to fill out the schedule. For meetings in Borough Hall, please contact the Clerk's Office at 201-460-3001 and the Recreation Department at 201-460-3015 for Tamblin Field Civic Center. We are working on providing a guest wi-fi at each location which will be available for members who need to utilize the internet on their own devices. Those arriving for meetings will be asked to use the front entrance of Borough Hall.

The Borough is also in the process of wiring Council Chambers to enable livestreaming of Mayor and Council meetings. We anticipate the Mayor and Council meetings will be broadcast live on the internet beginning in April. Meetings will not be interactive, and members of the public wishing to speak will need to attend the meetings in person, as was protocol prior to COVID.

I'm excited to announce a long anticipated improvement coming to Rutherford this summer. Digital parking meters will soon replace the vintage meter heads and allow for more flexible and convenient payment options when parking in our business districts. We will be awarding that contract shortly.

To prepare for this conversion, the Council introduced an ordinance raising parking fees to \$0.25 per 15 minutes. The new meter heads will accept quarters and credit cards. Payment can also be made via a phone app. I'd like to thank Borough Administrator Bob Kakoleski for the thorough research he conducted to find the right technology for our residents and shoppers.

I'd like to congratulate Fiorentini Restaurant, at 98 Park Ave, for being named the 1st business in Rutherford to be identified as a

NJ Registered Sustainable Business. This is a great accomplishment for Fiorentini. The Green Team Committee is also currently creating a program to educate Rutherford's businesses in how to follow Fiorentini's lead, and I'm very excited about the future of a sustainable-focused economy in Rutherford.

Finally, I'd like to wish Captain Patrick Feliciano a happy and most importantly healthy retirement. Captain Feliciano dedicated thirty years to the Rutherford Police Department and prior to that spent several years with the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office as an investigator. In addition to his years of dedication to our Borough, I have the great privilege of counting Pat as a close friend. I knew I could always count on him during COVID and he was always ready to lead a parade when we looked for new and fun ways to celebrate things as a community. Enjoy retirement, Pat! You'll be missed but I know you'll continue to be an important part of our community.

Sincerely, Mayor Frank Nunziato

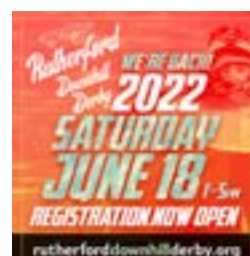
HEALTH **A Message from Health Official Jennifer Galarza**

Fortunately, reported COVID cases have declined in recent months. As cases continue to trend downward, beginning next week, the Borough will post weekly COVID case updates as opposed to daily.

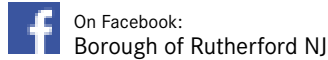
Also, due to backlogs at commercial labs, we have begun receiving influxes of cases that should have been reported through the state database during the winter, but are now sporadically being sent to my department. This creates reporting that is not reflective of current data but we must include in our reporting.

I'd like to thank the volunteer members of the Data Analysis committee members who have created and maintained the graphs and charts for our residents to reference throughout COVID. This resource is something that few other towns in our area were able to provide, and I'm proud of how Rutherford managed the data available to us throughout the pandemic.

A water main replacement project will begin next week on Borough Street between Rt 17 and Veteran's Boulevard



**Register for the
Derby & all
Rec Activities on
RecDesk today!**



March 18, 2022

Council President Mark Goldsack mgoldsack@rutherfordboronj.com

Recreation Department & Public Events:

At Monday's meeting, we approved the following:

- Memorial Day Parade
- Street Closure – Rabies Clinic-April 2, 2022
- Little League Parade-April 2, 2022
- Multicultural Event-September 9 & 10, 2022

Registration for the 4th Downhill Derby is now open!
Visit rutherforddownhillderby.org for more information and to register through RecDesk.

Deadline to register is April 15!

Councilwoman Stephanie McGowan smcgowan@rutherfordboronj.com

On Monday, March 14, 2022, the Mayor, and Council introduced and unanimously passed the fiscal year 2022 municipal operating budget on first reading. After careful review of our existing cost structure, anticipated expenditures and revenue, the Borough Administrator and Chief Financial Officer endorsed an operating budget proposing a 1.63% municipal tax increase.

In an effort to provide a better understanding into this process and ultimate recommendation, the following driving forces produced the budget introduced:

1. Inflation Rate: In 2020, the inflation rate was calculated at 1.36% In 2022, there was a significant increase specific to inflation at an estimated 7.9%. This dramatic increase impacts the costs associated with every aspect of the operating budget that needed to be considered and absorbed for the 2022 fiscal year.
2. Revenue Losses: As we approach an endemic stage regarding COVID-19, the financial impacts to the municipality, especially in the area of revenue, was significant. Municipal Court fines were down 37%, Interest on investments were down 68%, and our hotel occupancy tax was down 28%.
3. Appropriation Increases: While revenues decreased as stated above, our expenditures through appropriations have increase in specific areas: Contractual Salary Increases of Borough employees, projected increases for equipment and supplies, the cost of gasoline increasing 71.2%, an increase in liability insurance and pension payments.
4. Despite the significant decrease in revenue and increase in expenditures, we have endorsed a budget that supports NO DECREASE IN PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.
5. Recommitting to community events to provide Rutherford residents an opportunity to enjoy this community and being in community with each other.

6. Through strong financial decision making and spending over the past five years, the Borough is able to utilize the Fund Balance to assist with addressing our aging infrastructure and provide much needed improvements to support the beauty of Rutherford and needs of its residents.
7. Utilizing \$300,000 in American Rescue Funds to minimize the impact and tax burden to the Borough residents while still maintaining the quality of life and community we believe Rutherford to offer.

The operating budget will have public comment on April 11th and adopted thereafter. Thank you to our Borough Department Leadership, Mayor Nunziato, my Council colleagues, 2nd liaison on Finance Councilman Ray Guzman and both our Borough Administrator Bob Kakoleski and CFO Gordon Stetler for their careful attention and advocacy for a strong operating budget reflecting the health of Rutherford.

Councilman Tom Mullahey tmullahey@rutherfordboronj.com

Health Dept: The Health Department is pleased to announce several upcoming clinics for residents. For more information visit www.rutherfordboronj.com/departments/health

Rabies Clinic Saturday, April 2nd 10am -12pm

400 Mortimer Ave Fire House

All cats and dogs must be accompanied by an adult and restrained on a leash or in a carrier.

Blood Screening Saturday, April 9th 7:00am-10:00am

Rutherford Health Department

Limited Availability.

Call and Schedule your Appointment TODAY! 201-460-3020

BLOOD SCREENING FEE: \$22.00

Councilman Ray Guzmán rguzman@rutherfordboronj.com

Green Team Liaison: Applications for the Community Garden will be available April 1! One bed per person, first come first served. Applications will be on the Borough website beginning April 1.

Rutherford Public Library: The Friends of the Library will host its annual Edible Book Contest virtually in 2022. Individuals or teams are invited to show off their best book-related creation. Registration is free and open from March 19 through April 2: <https://forms.gle/N19jrC57tLk5Qu7D6>

Stay Up to Date with Library News

Did you know the Rutherford Library has a digital newsletter? Subscribe by clicking here or texting RUTHERFORDLIB to 28228. You may also follow the library on Facebook and Instagram.