

From the Desk of Mayor Frank Nunziato

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 tomorrow, Saturday, March 27.

The caravan will begin around 1pm on the south side of town and proceed to the homes of the team members. You will likely hear sirens from the participating emergency vehicles as they make their way through town. Congratulations to our students who worked so hard for this major achievement, and I look forward to seeing you tomorrow!

I'd also like to remind you that next Saturday, April 3rd, between 1 and 4pm, Peter Cottontail will be driving around Rutherford accompanied by musician James McGill.

On another note, I'd like to discuss the financial agreement between the Borough and Linque Equities that was passed at Monday's Council Meeting.

This project has been years in the making and I believe it is a win for the Borough. This vacant land, east of Rt 17 near Highland Cross, will now generate more tax revenue for the Borough as well as create 150 temporary construction jobs and 211 permanent jobs.

This agreement was thoroughly and painstakingly negotiated by our seasoned and experienced Borough attorneys and financial advisor along with our Borough Administrator. All practical uses and limitations of this land, which sits at the edge of the Meadowlands, were considered, such as the difficulties any builder would face while constructing in a swamp area.

We have come so far from the initial designs on this land which originally called for a small city of hundreds of residential units to be built. The final result of a light industrial warehouse that will bring jobs to our area with zero impact on our schools is the best possible scenario Rutherford could have hoped for. I'd like to thank all the professionals who tediously worked to usher this project to fruition and I look forward to seeing it completed.

Sincerely,
- Mayor Frank Nunziato

Seasonal Restrooms are now open at Rutherford parks

Department News

RPD

**Police
Department**

- As the weather continues to warm, we are seeing increased pedestrian and vehicular activity in our business districts and around our schools. This is reminder to obey your local traffic regulations, watch for pedestrian crossing and park only in valid parking spaces. The Police Department will be enforcing violations regularly.
- When accessing the food establishments along Meadow Road, please completely enter the respective parking lot. Vehicle lines backing up into the flow of traffic on Meadow Road are not permitted and are considered a dangerous traffic obstruction. Violators will be issued summonses for obstructing the flow of traffic.
- No residential solicitations are authorized by phone from any member of the Rutherford Police Department on behalf of the NJ State PBA, the Rutherford PBA Local 300 or the Rutherford Police Department. You will never receive a call soliciting funds from any actual member of this department.

We have again been alerted that scammers are using the name of one of our active members. Please have no interactions with these callers and notify us as soon as you receive one of these fraudulent telephone calls soliciting donations or requesting personal information.

**TAX
COLLECTOR**

The Borough of Rutherford Tax Collector's office is in the process of preparing revised bills for property owners who are entitled to the Homestead Benefit. These revised bills were mailed on Thursday, March 25.

HEALTH

Bergen County residents age 75 years and older now have the option to schedule vaccination appointments at the Bergen County vaccination site, located at the Alternate Care Facility Annex on the campus of Bergen New Bridge Medical Center. To schedule a vaccination appointment, residents 75 and older can call 201-967-4070. If no appointments are available, an agent will take the caller's information and add them to a waitlist.

The Health Dept will be conducting its [Annual Free Rabies Clinic for Rutherford cats and dogs on Saturday, April 24, 2021](#) from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM at the Mortimer Avenue Firehouse located at the corner of Mortimer Avenue & W. Pierrepont Ave.



Council Reports

Council President Mark Goldsack

mgoldsack@rutherfordboronj.com

Ordinances

1st Reading

Salary Ordinance – Rutherford PBA Local 300 – Passed on 1st Reading - This ordinance implements the salary guidelines agreed upon between the Borough and PBA Local 300 as authorized by the Mayor and Council at our previous meeting.

Salary Ordinance – Department Head Unit - Passed on 1st Reading - This ordinance implements the salary guidelines agreed upon between the Borough and the Department Head Bargaining Unit as authorized by the Mayor and Council at our previous meeting.

2nd Reading

Ordinance 3549-21 – Authorizing the Execution of a Financial Agreement Between the Borough and Linque – H.C. Partners Urban Renewal LLC - Passed on Second Reading - H.C. Partners Urban Renewal LLC for the Highland Cross Redevelopment project in the Meadowlands.

In addition to generating much needed revenue for the Borough with minimal impact on our resources, this project will:

- Produce a state of the art industrial distribution warehouse on what is currently vacant land
- Create 150 temporary construction jobs and 211 permanent jobs
- Include roadway and associated public infrastructure improvements in the Borough
- Expand and improve the Borough's DPW Parking lot, including re-striping 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.

This project has been through various iterations over the last twenty years. This version of the project, agreed to and mutually beneficial to all parties involved, was negotiated over the course of eight months by the Borough's redevelopment attorney and financial advisor, both of whom have decades of experience negotiating deals such as these.

The Borough is confident that this agreement not only benefits the local economy, but also benefits Rutherford taxpayers by

providing tax revenue that increases over the course of the thirty year agreement.

It's also important to remember that in the early stages of this project, Linque Equities built our current DPW facility and is providing additional parking upgrades around the facility as noted above.

I want to reiterate that under a PILOT agreement the Borough receives 95% of the tax revenue, with 5% being remitted to the County. However, this does not mean our schools receive nothing. The land itself is still taxed conventionally which means our schools will receive tax revenue even though this industrial project will have no impact on the schools whatsoever.

Lastly, I would like to make mention of the following provision in the agreement, which explicitly counters the argument that the redeveloper is receiving a "windfall."

"During the period of tax exemption, the entity shall be subject to a limitation of its profits pursuant to New Jersey law (allowable net profit). In the event the net profit of the entity exceeds the allowable net profit for a particular period the entity is required pay the Borough the excess as an additional service charge (additional PILOT payment)." 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 Second Reading – Rutherford is vacating this portion of Borough Street pursuant to the redevelopment agreement with Linque Equities.

Finance

Resolution No. 79 – April 2021 Emergency Temporary Appropriations – Passed - As was mentioned in the most recent newsletter, the Borough delayed the introduction of our 2021 budget until the first meeting in April at which time we hope to have guidance related to the aid we are receiving from the passage of the American Rescue Plan. New Jersey law allows for the creation of emergency temporary appropriations where an emergency condition has arisen where the Borough is expected to enter into contracts, commitments or payments prior to the passage of the 2021 budget and no provision has been made in the 2021 temporary budget for those purposes. This emergency temporary appropriation of \$5,333,810 will cover operational costs effective 4/1 and will be provided for in the 2021 budget.

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Council President Mark Goldsack *continued*

mgoldsack@rutherfordboronj.com

Public Information

Resolution No. 76 – Resolution Adopting Social Media Policy – Passed - With the advent of pandemic the Borough began to utilize social media on a daily basis to keep our residents informed. Since then we have continued to make use of social media to disseminate various information to our residents. We believe it's been very well received by our residents and are proud of how far we've come from a transparency perspective. As we continue to use social media, we believe it is necessary to set forth guidelines for both the use and establishment of social media sites by the Borough. This policy establishes enforceable rules for the use of social media by Borough officers and employees who are engaged in Borough business. I'd like to thank Mayor Nunziato, our Public Information consultant Kim Bogosian, our Borough Attorney Bo Ferraro, our Risk Manager Frank Covelli and our Borough Administrator Bob Kakoleski for all of their hard work in getting this policy in place.

Liaison Assignments

Citizens Finance Advisory Committee - Our first meeting is scheduled for 3/31/21 at 7pm via zoom

Planning Board - The Planning Board held its meeting on 3/18/21. The Planning Board agreed to send 10 recommendations regarding the Williams Center redevelopment plan to the Mayor and Council for review and consideration. My colleagues have yet to officially receive the recommendations from the Planning Board. Once we receive them we will consider them and then take action to adopt the redevelopment plan via two separate readings as it is adopted via ordinance.

Shade Tree Commission - Will be meeting on April 13th at 6 pm. The Commission will continue its review and possible overhaul of our implementing ordinance. We made very good process at our first meeting and look forward to continuing to work on it.

Councilwoman Stephanie McGowan

smcgowan@rutherfordboronj.com

Recreation Update:

Since our first online cooking class was such a hit, the Recreation Department offered a free cooking class for kids making **"Spring Stuffed Shells"** on 3/23/21 sponsored by Matera's on Park by Executive Chef & General Manger Erica Russo. Over 70 kids participated, and it was a great success!

Secret Bunny Drop will be taking place on April 3, 2021.

Registration for households has reached capacity, but to make this a great success, the Recreation Department is seeking "Volunteer Bunnies" to hide eggs with candy between 7-9am around town. If you are interested in volunteering, please register through the google document available on the Borough webpage.

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 (DEDR) penalties imposed in drug-related offenses) funding. Deterra Pouches safely dispose of unwanted or unused medication to prevent the misuse of them. In accordance with the DEA Takeback initiative on April 24 th , the committee will support our community and our seniors in appropriately disposing of potentially dangerous or unused medication.

Access for All:

Councilwoman McGowan and Councilman Chris Hillman from Hasbrouck Heights were invited guests to the Oradell for All meeting on March 16 th , and guest speakers at the Bergen County Advisory Board for Multiple Sclerosis (MS) on March 17 th . Presentations were given about the importance of building external relationships across communities to coordinate resources to address community challenges such handicap accessible sidewalks, and advocacy for the diversity in communities for those who are diagnosed with unique abilities. Next steps will be focused toward building an advisory committee across Bergen County that would coordinate initiatives of various volunteer groups to utilize our collective voice to advocate for community needs and of our collective constituencies.

The Rutherford Report



The Borough of
RUTHERFORD
New Jersey

rutherfordboronj.com



On Twitter:
@Rutherford07070



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Borough of Rutherford NJ

March 26, 2021

Councilman Ray Guzmán

rguzman@rutherfordboronj.com

At the last Mayor and Council meeting I motioned Resolution No. 75-2021 : Municipal Endorsing Resolution for a Bergen County Community Development Block Grant Covid-19 Project.

The purpose of this block grant is for the purchase and installation of audio/visual equipment within the Council Chambers to enable expanded and more inclusive access to public meetings and information sessions within the Borough of Rutherford. I am happy to report his resolution was voted on by my Council colleagues and me unanimously.

I am happy to announce that the Borough of Rutherford has received the Department of Transportation Local Freight Impact Grant in the amount of \$600,000.00 for Veterans Boulevard Project. I'd like to thank Senator Paul Sarlo in helping to secure these funds and for his constant support for the Borough.

The Rutherford Public Library has installed a new media and news board at the front entrance of the library this week. Please look for important information, library news and library events posted on the new sign when visiting or driving by the library.

Councilman Tom Mullahey

tmullahey@rutherfordboronj.com

Police Update

The Borough is requesting the civil service commission to certify eligible candidates for the position of police officer. The Borough is taking this action in anticipation of future retirements of the RPD.

Sponsorship Program

I'm excited to announce that in the next month or so the Borough will be launching a sponsorship program, through which individuals, families and businesses can directly contribute to the success of events that we'd like to host after a financially difficult year.

Councilwoman Maria Begg-Roberson

mbegg-roberson@rutherfordboronj.com

Rutherford Civil Rights Commission (RCRC)

Along with some other Bergen County municipalities, the Mayor and Council passed a resolution declaring solidarity with the Asian and the Asian American Community. Approximately 18% of Rutherford residents are of Asian descent. And, many of our business owners identify as Asian. Rutherford is an inclusive town and we are proud to stand with all our Asian communities.

Excerpt From the Resolution

We resolved to:

Councilman Matthew Cokeley

mcokeley@rutherfordboronj.com

Fire: The Rutherford Mayor & Council would like to formally thank Jefferey Patterson (Engine Company No. 2) and Robert Robinson (Engine Company No. 4), as well as their families, for their years of service to the Borough's Fire Department. We wish them both well in their next endeavors.

We would also like to thank Robert Ziemkiewicz and his family for their service as Robert was accepted into Engine Company No. 2 as a full-time member at Monday night's Mayor & Council meeting.

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: As of the deadline (3/12) for the Youth Arts Month banner program, the Borough has received 70 submissions from the children and families of Rutherford. Installation will commence in early April and run through Memorial Day Weekend. Children as young as 3 years old have submitted work to this fledgling program.

Felician University: Felician Signs Agreement with South Bergen Jointure Commission: The agreement reflects the mission of the SBJC and Felician University's School of Education to improve education for all families including the growing population of children with autism, multiple disabilities, and behavioral disorders. More can be read here: <https://felician.edu/news/felician-signs-agreement-with-south-bergen-jointure-commission/>

"Call on public officials in other municipalities and at the state level to condemn and denounce racism, xenophobia and intolerance in all forms and stand with us in solidarity with the Asian and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders communities."

"Recognize the dedication of Asian and Asian-American frontline medical workers, teachers, police and fire officers and essential workers. They along with their colleagues show up to work every day so that our society can still function. The strain of COVID is particularly heavy for Asian and Asian-American frontline and essential workers because they have been personally attacked for their ethnicity in the midst of providing their essential services to us."