

March 3, 2023

The Rutherford REPORT

THE BOROUGH OF
RUTHERFORD
NEW JERSEY

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The Rutherford Irish American Association will hold its annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 5th. Parade kicks off at 1pm at Woodland and Park Avenues, ending at Park and Ames Avenue. Please expect road closures and limited parking.

From the Desk of Mayor Frank Nunziato

This Sunday, the Rutherford Irish American Association will host its annual St. Patrick's Day parade. This event has been getting bigger and better each year and I have no doubt this year will prove the same. I hear there will be over 70 groups participating. A tremendous amount of work goes into any event, but one of this scale requires a lot of organization and skill, which the RIAA has always provided expertly.

There will of course be road closures and I thank everyone for their patience when navigating the town on Sunday. Parking on Park Ave, as well as several side streets, will be suspended beginning at 9 am - please be aware of posted "no parking" signs this weekend. I'd like to thank everyone in advance for their cooperation.

As in years past, the parade begins at 1pm at Woodland and Park and ends at Ames and Park, where a viewing stand will be set up for dignitaries. I'd like to congratulate Mark Dolaghan, thirty-year Rutherford resident and avid volunteer, for being named this year's Grand Marshal. Most importantly, I hope everyone has a fun, safe time and enjoys all the festivities on Sunday!

Wishing you a happy, early St. Patrick's Day,
Sincerely,
Mayor Frank Nunziato



Vaping: Save Your Breath -
What Every Parent Needs to Know
Tuesday, March 7th 2023 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Sponsored by the Rutherford Police Department,
Rutherford Municipal Alliance, GCADA and Elks USA

Rutherford Elks Lodge # 547 48 Ames Ave
Presented by Timothy Shoemaker

Tickets available online [here](#) and can be found at
www.rutherfordboronj.com/departments/police

Roads affected by staging for the annual RIAA St. Patrick's Day Parade



THE RUTHERFORD
SHADE TREE COMMISSION PRESENTS

Rutherford TreeFest '23

An Arbor Day Craft & Food Festival
celebrating the Borough of Trees

Saturday, April 22nd 2023
12-5 pm • Lincoln Park

Featuring:

- Educational Booths
- Toy & Craft Vendors
- Food & Drink
- Beer Garden
- Live Music
- And more friendly-family fun!



Seeking vendors of nature inspired and organic products!
Now accepting vendor registrations
through RecDesk

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Councilman Ray Guzmán
rguzman@rutherfordboronj.com

FREE Upcoming Health Clinics

For more information on any of these clinics call the Health Dept at 201-460-3020 www.rutherfordboronj.com/departments/health

Balance & Fall Prevention Seminar Thursday March 9
11:00 am – 12:00 pm - Health Dept 184 Park Ave

This free seminar will be presented by a licensed physical therapist to educate the community on how to keep their balance, prevent falls, and maintain their independence.

Rabies Clinic March 18

10:00 am – 12:00 pm - 400 Mortimer Ave (Mortimer Firehouse)

Registration forms can be picked up in advance at the Health Department located at 184 Park Avenue, between 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM on weekdays or at Police Headquarters after normal working hours. All cats and dogs must be accompanied by an adult and restrained on a leash or in a carrier.

Emerging Drug Trends March 22 6-7pm - Health Dept 184 Park Ave

This workshop is designed to help identify drug paraphernalia, learn new information about trends, educate about addiction, as well as outline the signs or symptoms of being under the influence or a substance use disorder.

Councilwoman Christie Del Rey-Cone
cdelrey-cone@rutherfordboronj.com

Hello neighbors. I am excited to report that, at Tuesday's meeting, the Council passed a resolution reinstating the Mayor's Wellness Campaign. With support of the Green Team, we are again going to collaborate with the Mayor to focus on our community's total wellness. Keep an eye out for events towards this effort. Speaking of the Green Team, please send a huge virtual shout out to the Green Team and, especially, Julia Siegel, for compiling and completing the first round of Rutherford's Sustainable New Jersey submission. This effort was herculean and could not have been achieved without Julia's hard work and collaboration with our borough employees. Sustainable New Jersey really opens up so many grant opportunities for our beloved borough and our participation is important.

Thank you to Chris Seidler and the entirety of DPW for successfully navigating us through our first (only?) snow of the season. Your hard work does not go unnoticed. This week we closed out Black History Month. While the month itself is important, I want to encourage all of our residents to celebrate and recognize Black History throughout the year. Through collaboration with the Rutherford Civil Rights Commission, we can help you find ways to do so. For example, The History Makers (thehistorymakers.org) is a digital repository for the Black experience. It is a non-profit committed to preserving and making widely accessible the untold personal stories of both well-known and unsung African Americans. We must continue to educate ourselves about the contributions of people of color to American History. Please reach out if you are interested in learning more about these opportunities and resources. I hope to see many of you along Park Avenue on Sunday for the Irish American Association's St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday afternoon. The weather looks like it will be perfect!

Councilman Matthew Cokeley
mcokeley@rutherfordboronj.com

On Tuesday, February 28th, I presented my research and logic for an amendment to our current Cannabis ordinance in order to allow for Class 5 (Retail) & Class 6 (Delivery) state-licensed entities to operate within our designated "Cannabis Zone". For those who have yet to watch the meeting's recording, the [presentation](#) and [video](#) are available on the Borough's home page under "[Special Presentations](#)."

The highlights and facts from the presentation are as follows:

First and foremost, The Borough of Rutherford needs new revenue streams. We can not continue to sustain this incredible community on taxes and development alone. The Retail Cannabis industry is one of the fastest growing businesses in the state and has already contributed to our friends and neighbors such as Rochelle Park, Montclair and more. ([See presentation for case studies and data](#))

Second, the ordinance as written restricts all Cannabis licenses (Class 1-6) to properties East of Rte. 17. ([see map included with ordinance and presentation beginning page 9 of the 2/28 agenda packet](#))

Finally, the baseline revenue opportunity, based on national statistics, is \$100,000 for our zip code ALONE. Rochelle Park, whose population is less than 1/3 of Rutherford's, currently collects roughly \$1million in municipal taxes from Cannabis-based businesses.

There is obviously more nuance and context to the information provided within the presentation which is why the Mayor, Borough Administrator and I have decided to push the ordinance's second read out 30 days. This will allow us time to put together a special community hearing and/or allow for a cup of coffee with anyone who wants to learn more.

I would like to thank my council colleagues for their open minds and countless discussions. I specifically would like to thank Councilwoman Delrey-Cone for going above and beyond in her due diligence and Councilman Ray Guzman for his meticulous research. I also thank Councilwoman Quatrone for her unwavering support. (Council President McGowan and Councilwoman Begg-Roberson were absent from the meeting and not present to vote. I know all my colleagues spend countless hours thinking about all matters that impact Rutherford.)

I would also like to thank the Mayor & Borough Administrator for their support over the last 2 years as well as Borough Attorney, Robert Ferraro, for his diligence and attention to detail as we crafted this important piece of Rutherford's future.

Thank you.