

March 31, 2023

The Rutherford REPORT

rutherfordboronj.com



THE BOROUGH OF
RUTHERFORD
NEW JERSEY



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Please note - the following dates of scheduled Mayor and Council meetings have been changed:

The April 10th Mayor and Council meeting is rescheduled to April 17th.

The April 24th Mayor and Council meeting is rescheduled to May 2nd.

The May 8th Mayor and Council meeting has been cancelled.

From the Desk of Mayor Frank Nunziato

This weekend my wife and I had the pleasure of attending the Rutherford Public Library Foundation's annual gala where Pat Wester was honored to a packed house.

Pat is a fine example of Rutherford's volunteer spirit. Over the course of 25 years Pat has served as a member of the Friends of the Library, Library Foundation and Board of Trustees. If you're not a regular patron of the Rutherford Public Library, I highly suggest you visit. I've personally watched our library grow and thrive over the decades since my own children were young, and now I'm happy to see this organization is currently working towards creating a space dedicated to the teen population.

I'd like to thank all the people who volunteer their time to this great institution. It's a true community center and I encourage everyone to take advantage of this asset we have in the middle of town. From Miss Jane, who is in her 52nd year as the children's librarian, to Library Director Gretchen Corsillo who is in her 3rd year with Rutherford, the library's staff spans a tremendous amount of talent and skillsets.

As Senator Paul Sarlo spoke about at the gala, Rutherford is truly unique in its ability and desire to support its library. Over the years I myself have been guilty of not always appreciating what a great asset we have here in Rutherford, especially since my children have gotten older. Now that I've had the opportunity to really stop and learn about all it offers, I'm thoroughly impressed with the services and classes the Rutherford Public Library provides daily, which are open and accessible to every member of the community. If you haven't been in a while, stop by and say hi and check it out!

Sincerely,
Mayor Frank Nunziato

Rutherford Rec Summer Camp



**Summer Camp Registration Opens
Monday, April 3rd at 8:30am**

Rutherford Rec offers three camps:

Kinder, (Grades K-2)

Junior (Grades 3-4)

& Senior (Grades 5-8)

Visit

**www.rutherfordboronj.com/departments/recreation
for more information**

**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**

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

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Councilwoman Maria Begg-Roberson mbegg-roberson@rutherfordboronj.com

Recreation Department

Rutherford Recreation Summer Day Camp registration opens Monday, April 3rd at 8:30 am on Rec Desk at Programs (recdesk.com). Rutherford Residents only.

Rutherford Rock registration is open! Are you proficient in a musical instrument or a vocalist? Are you able to play a song & rock? Come together with your peers to create contemporary music guided by local professional musicians. (Not intended to be instrumental lessons). Rutherford Residents only. Register at Programs (recdesk.com).

A few spots left for the Rutherford Recreation Dance class for 4-5 year old and Musical Theatre class for 8-12 year old starting April 15th. Register at Programs (recdesk.com).

On Sat., May 20th the Rutherford Lacrosse Association will hold its 2nd annual "Rutherford Lacrosse Day" at Tryon Field.

The day long celebration (from 1:00-9:00 pm) is open to all and every Rutherford Lacrosse Association Team will play. It will be filled with fun, music, vendors, contests, food and more.

The Rutherford Lacrosse Association sure does have a reason to celebrate. It hasn't even been a decade since it's inception and during that time the program has exploded, growing to over 200 laxers from kindergarten to eighth grade. Rutherford's gritty style of play has made a name for our town, consistently bringing home both wins and tournament championships.

All are welcome to join on May 20th. Come cheer on your home town and see why it's called the "fastest game on two feet"!

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

As we round out Women's History Month, I am so grateful to have been invited to speak at Mt. Ararat's Women's History Celebration. Pastor Shawn Pate is making strides to bring our community together - both in person and virtually. Our church communities - of all faiths - have rich histories in town and I encourage you to attend any number of events that they host. Speaking of our town's history, many thanks to Robin Reenstra for hosting the Civil Rights Commission at the Meadowlands Museum and providing us all with a view into the Commission's start and the importance of Black history in our community. Please consider supporting and visiting the Meadowlands Museum - it will make you fall deeper in love with our amazing Borough.

The Green Team has a number of wonderful events coming up. Reservations for our Community Garden will open up on April 1. Reservations can be made through RecDesk. On April 22, the Green Team will again host our town clean up. If you and your families or friends wish to join, please meet us outside Borough Hall at 9 am. Once we have gotten our town all cleaned up, we can celebrate Arbor Day together in Lincoln Park beginning at noon that same day. There will be vendors, community organizations and a beer garden to enjoy. We hope to see you there!

Councilman Matthew Cokeley mcokeley@rutherfordboronj.com

On Monday, March 27th, the mayor and council tabled the proposed revisions (allow for Class 5 [Retail] & Class 6 [Delivery] state-licensed entities) to our current cannabis ordinance in order to address several points raised by the Planning Board. As stated in the meeting, there is no rush to move these revisions through. This is a very important effort to benefit Rutherford's economic future and we want to get it right.

At first read a little more than a month ago, I presented my research and logic for the amendment to our current Cannabis ordinance. For those interested the meeting's recording, presentation and video are available on the Borough's website.

Moving forward and to combat any misinformation or assumptions being made, the borough will be hosting a town hall to hear from residents interested in discussing the subject. The date will be established within the coming weeks.

Facts from the effort are STILL 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. There will be NO dispensary on Park Avenue nor Union Avenue nor anywhere else within "Rutherford Proper". (see map included with ordinance and presentation)

There is obviously more nuance and context to the effort and I am working diligently with my council and borough colleagues to address legitimate concerns. This will be a huge economic boon for Rutherford should everything come together. However, be advised, we have a long, long way to go on multiple fronts. Please feel free to reach me at my email address above with any direct questions.

Councilwoman Susan Quatrone squatrone@rutherfordboronj.com

Library Gala: This past weekend the Rutherford Public Library Foundation hosted a memorable night that raised ample resources for teen programming while raising the community's awareness of how essential the library is for the health, literacy, equity and well being of our community. As Council Liaison to the Library, I was honored to present a Proclamation, on behalf of the Mayor and Council, honoring the service of library enthusiast Pat Wester. Pat has been a Board Member for 25 years and is an impressive storyteller as well as library historian. There were 250 people in attendance, and the night was a celebration of the enormous support and love that the library engenders in Rutherford and beyond. State Senator Paul Sarlo remarked that he has been to many municipal library fundraisers and functions, and has rarely, if ever, seen this level of fulsome support for a public library. Congratulations and endless thanks to all that worked to make this magical night successful.

Spring Used Book Sale: From April 1-15, the Library will be collecting used books for its used book sale. The sale will take place April 21-24. Please take advantage of this opportunity to do some spring cleaning and give your old books new life!