

April 21, 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 24th Mayor & Council meeting is rescheduled to May 2nd. The May 8th Mayor & Council meeting has been cancelled.

THE SHADE TREE COMMISSION PRESENTS

## Rutherford TreeFest '23

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

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

You can also join the  
Green Team for  
Town-Wide  
Clean-Up Day  
Meet at  
Borough Hall at 9am!

### From the Desk of Mayor Frank Nunziato

It was a great week for the Rutherford Police Department! This past Tuesday I was elated to join my colleagues, Police Chief John Russo and the dedicated members of the Rutherford Police Department to formally open the new Police Headquarters and Municipal Court building. When we began planning this building in 2017, we of course had no idea a pandemic would halt construction and cause a host of supply chain issues. Chief Russo and Borough Administrator Bob Kakoleski adapted and pivoted with every obstacle they encountered throughout this project and I'd personally like to thank them for working as a team since the beginning.

To the members of the Rutherford Police Department - thank you for bearing with all the delays and for believing that we would create a facility you can be proud to call "home." You make Rutherford proud every day and I'm glad you finally have the workspace you deserve.

On Wednesday, I had the great honor of swearing in two of the RPD's newest members: Kristen Kimble and Gabrielle Ribadeneyra. Please join me in welcoming them to Rutherford Police Department family!

Please read a statement from the Borough Administrator with details about this new building and parking in the surrounding area on the next page. I'd like to again thank the residents, Borough and Police employees for all your patience while we created an important part of Rutherford that many generations will utilize and appreciate.

Sincerely,  
Mayor Frank Nunziato

### TAX COLLECTOR

#### Second Quarter Property Taxes Due May 1

Second quarter property taxes are due May 1st with a grace period to May 10th. Payments can be made via US mail, the drop box located to the left of the Donaldson Avenue entrance, or the online portal through the Borough website.



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

### Recreation Department

**Rutherford Rock** registration is still 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).

**Tennis Lessons** by Tennis Dynamics at Memorial Field Park will be starting May 14th. For more information or to register go to Programs (recdesk.com)

**Top Dawgs Spring Soccer has begun!** Top Dawgs is a program designed to provide a sports experience tailored to the needs of children with physical and/or developmental disabilities. The TOP DAWGS Program gives children with special needs an opportunity to play. Not only do the players experience the thrill of participating in an organized sport activity, but they also experience team play and camaraderie. For more information and/or to join please go to Programs (recdesk.com)

**Reminder! For your own safety, we ask all residents to please refrain from using the inside track at Tryon Field during all Lacrosse games.**

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

Hello Neighbors. As spring sets in, it's time to do spring cleaning of all sorts and taking care of our beautiful Borough is on the list. Please join me and the Green Team for our annual town clean up this Saturday, April 22 beginning at 9 am in front of Borough Hall. You are welcome to bring your own gloves or whatever makes you comfortable but we will have supplies available. It's a fun and worthwhile activity for the entire family. After we clean up, you can head on over to Lincoln Park for the Shade Tree Commission's Tree Fest!

Congratulations to the Rutherford Little League and Rutherford Softball League on a successful opening day! I was honored to be a part of it. Please note that Rutherford Girls Softball begins their season on April 22nd, 2023. While we have come so far as a society in an effort to achieve equity, girls' sports still drag behind in community attention and engagement. With that in mind, please join me in supporting Softball Saturdays at Memorial Field Diamond 5 this Saturday and each Saturday through the middle of June. I am told that our town's softball program consists of over 200 girls on 18 teams ranging in age between 5 and 14 years old. Games between our Rutherford teams will be played between 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM. each week. Last year, Rutherford Softball's Under-12 Little League All-Star team played and won their way to the State Championship tournament. As I said at this week's Mayor and Council meeting, as the mother of a Bulldog that plays sports in a variety of our boys' programs, I love the electricity associated with cheering on our boys' teams. With that said, however, glory should be (and feel) equitable. Join the Softball League as it celebrates past victories. Our girls' softball players are athletic, hard-working and dedicated. You won't be disappointed.

**Councilman Ray Guzmán**  
rguzman@rutherfordboronj.com

### Health Department Liaison

The Rutherford Health Department will host a Blood Screening: Saturday, April 29, 2023 7:00am-9:00am  
Rutherford Health Department 184 Park Avenue  
Blood Screening Fee: \$22.00 Limited Availability.

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

### Police Liaison

DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is  
Saturday, April 22nd 10am-2pm at the old police headquarters.

## From the Borough Administrator

This week we held the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Police Headquarters and Municipal Court Building. This was the largest municipal project in decades for the Borough. While it faced many difficulties and challenges throughout construction, I think we can all agree the final product was well worth the wait. I want to commend the men and women of the Rutherford Police Department for their patience throughout the process and also for never complaining about the less than ideal conditions they worked through during my five years here with the Borough. This is just another example of the high quality and professionalism of our Police Department.

I also want to thank the Borough Hall employees for all of their cooperation and understanding during construction. They certainly were negatively impacted and inconvenienced for the last 2 and half years but continued to serve the residents well.

The new parking lot is now available for employees and visitors. In a few weeks, it will be closed for a several days to correct a drainage issue but otherwise it is open. Spaces behind the old police building are also available for all. The West Passaic Avenue lot is NOT available to the public and is limited to police personnel only.

In the coming weeks, the Police Department and the Violations Bureau will continue to transition over to the new building. The last piece will be the relocation of the Police Dispatch center. This requires State review and approval but we expect that to occur hopefully late next month. The public should continue reporting any issues to the old headquarters until further notice.

I'm sure many of you are wondering about Mayor/Council meetings. The plan is to begin holding our meetings in the new Chambers/Court Room later this spring. We want to allow the police to get settled in and for all of us to get familiar with the new technology in the room. We are looking forward to it and hopefully you are as well.

On another note, this week I made a presentation to the Governing Body and the public at the Mayor/Council meeting on the CY2023 Borough budget. A copy of the presentation is available on our website for review. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the budget at our next meeting on May 2nd.