

## From the desk of Mayor Frank Nunziato

We are now 7 weeks into an unprecedented time in all our lives that has required Rutherford to redefine what it means to be a community. I'm proud to say that I have seen examples big and small where residents have found ways to help and celebrate each other. I've personally had the pleasure of saluting veteran Anthony Giametta on his 94th birthday from afar and got in line for a drive-by birthday parade for Board of Ed member Diane Jones. Just this week we celebrated my own mother's birthday via Zoom, and even though she lives nearby, the safe and responsible thing to do was to gather virtually.

I understand that 7 weeks feels like a long time to go without traditional "community." And the emotional toll is real. We all feel it. But we are not quite ready to begin the return to normal. Rutherford will continue to follow state and county guidelines and practice social distancing. We owe it to our first responders and healthcare community to lessen the burden on them however possible.

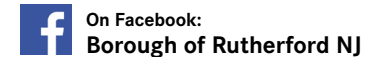
As the weather improves, I know our first instinct is to get out of the house. While our parks currently remain closed, remember that it's okay to enjoy walks around town with your family and keep a responsible distance between yourself and others.

After consulting with our Office of Emergency Management, we have decided that Rutherford's parks will not open at this time. It's important to understand the logistics that come with enforcing social distancing in a public space. The Borough is currently working on a plan to reopen our parks responsibly, but we cannot allow any part of Rutherford to become an attraction for residents or non-residents to gather at this time.

Fortunately we're seeing more of our essential businesses beginning to reopen and I look forward to announcing more of them opening in the near future. I encourage you to patronize our local businesses as often as possible to help them get through this difficult time.

Again, I'm so proud of how our town has conducted itself during this crisis. Thank you for your cooperation. We will continue to get through these challenging times together.

- Mayor Frank Nunziato  
fnunziato@rutherfordboronj.com



For to COVID-19 related information:

[www.rutherfordboronj.com/covid-information](http://www.rutherfordboronj.com/covid-information)

**Street sweeping has resumed.**  
Please move your car on your regularly scheduled day so we can keep your neighborhood beautiful!

Reports from:

### Council President Tom Mullahey

tmullahey@rutherfordboronj.com

- At Monday's meeting, we approved the purchase of an electronic message board for the front of Borough Hall. It will replace the current board in front of Borough Hall. The new board was budgeted for last year and will be dedicated to Barbara Bennett's memory.
- On Friday, May 1, 2020, we will roll out the Rutherford Military Tribute Banner Program. Families will have the opportunity to purchase a banner on behalf of a loved one who served in our American Armed Forces. The banners will be displayed on light poles throughout Park Ave. and Union Ave and will be displayed from Memorial Day to Veteran's Day. Please take a look at our [website for the application on the Permits, Licenses & Applications page.](#)

### Councilwoman Maria Begg-Roberson

mbegg-roberson@rutherfordboronj.com

- The Rutherford Community Pantry has been providing services to families in need in our area throughout this pandemic. The director, Genevieve Kacmarcik, is working diligently to ensure that families experiencing food insecurity have access to high quality food during this time. Genevieve is also partnering with our Department of Public Works, and the Kip Center to deliver Meals of Wheels to families in need in Bergen County on a weekly basis. Thank you to Rutherford photographer, Maggie McGill, for her Front Steps Project taking socially distant photos of many families in the area. Maggie generously donated the proceeds from the project to the community pantry. This donation allowed Genevieve Kacmarcik to stock the pantry with a large variety of food items for families in need in our community. If you are experiencing food insecurity during these uncertain times, please contact the food pantry at 201-460-3028.

**More Council Reports on the following page**

## Councilman Mark Goldsack

mgoldsack@rutherfordboronj.com

At the April 27 Mayor and Council meeting, the following resolutions were passed:

- Ordinance introduced on 1st reading - ordinance to exceed budget and establish a CAP bank - State law authorizes a municipality to increase budget from the prior year by an amount not to exceed 2.5% of those prior year appropriations. However, state law further allows a municipality to increase appropriations from prior year by 3.5% if done via ordinance. This routine action provides the municipality with additional available spending capacity in the event of unanticipated expenses that exceed the 2.5% limit. This action in no way guarantees the expenditure of these extra dollars, however this is an important financial "insurance policy" for the Borough to have available in case the unexpected should arise this year or in the two succeeding years.
- Passed Resolution No. 85 Introduction of the 2020 Municipal Budget. A public hearing related to the budget will be held on May 26th. Residents are encouraged to review the budget which will be available online next week and make every effort to participate in the public hearing or reach out with any questions or concerns they may have.
- Passed Resolution No. 84 Emergency Temporary Budget for May 2020 - this resolution authorizes a temporary budget for the month of May as we continue to finalize our full CY2020 municipal budget.
- Passed Resolution No. 82 Awarding a contract for the demolition of 17 West Passaic Avenue to Caravella Demolition Inc. in the amount of \$38,985 - 17 West Passaic Avenue was purchased by the Borough as a part of the larger Police Building Project. Demolition of the structure allows this vital project to continue to move forward.

## Councilman Ray Guzman

rguzman@rutherfordboronj.com

- As of Tuesday April 28th the Department of Public Works will begin crosswalk and curb painting.

## Councilwoman Stephanie McGowan

smcgowan@rutherfordboronj.com

- **Kip Center:** The Kip Center remains available to assist our 55+ community. They are continuing to provide essential services through the HOME FRIENDS program. If you or a Senior you know needs assistance with groceries or are food insecure, need a wellness check or reassurance phone call, please contact the 55 Kip Center Director, Cathy Baviello at 201-460-1600 or cathy@55Kipcenter.org. Anyone willing to volunteer their time to assist the Kip Center with providing these essential services are encouraged to contact Cathy as soon as possible.
- **Rutherford Volunteer Fire Department & EMS:** Donation of PPE and Reminders: Thank you to all the residents who have generously donated PPE such as masks, gowns and gloves to our first responders! If you have materials to donate, including hand-made masks, please contact Mayor's office at 201-460-3022 to arrange pick-up. THANK YOU to the amazing volunteers of our Rutherford Fire Department and EMS, as well as the outstanding members of our Rutherford Police Department, Public Works, Heath Department and all Borough Employees, who continue to protect and serve our Borough through the most extenuating circumstances. We are so thankful that you care for Rutherford in all you do!
- **Heroes Thanking Heroes:** On Sunday, April 26, 2020, the Rutherford Volunteer Fire Department delivered donated food to the Hackensack University Medical Center staff. The food delivery was the department's way of thanking the first responders at HUMC for their hard work and dedication during these difficult times. Thank you to OUR hometown heroes for showing such care and concern to the front-line heroes fighting the COVID-19 pandemic!
- **Thank You, RUTHERFORD!** Once again, I want to extend my sincerest appreciation to all of our residents that continue to observe social distancing, wear face coverings in public, rally to find ways to thank members of our community for their incredible service and sacrifice, and for showing real care and concern for each other. If you are able, please consider supporting our local food businesses by ordering curbside take out or delivery; as well as, supporting our local non-essential businesses that may be selling merchandise on their website. Just know that the spirit of this community continues to inspire me and remind me why I could think of no-where better place to raise my children and proudly call home. Our brightest days are yet to come, and I look forward to sharing them with you all... 6 feet apart!