

From the desk of Mayor Frank Nunziato

I hope you are finding ways to enjoy the spring weather during these unprecedented times. I'm happy to announce that as of 6:00 am Friday, May 15, Rutherford parks will reopen for passive recreation, with some restrictions. This is a small step towards a return to normalcy and I trust our residents and non-residents who visit our parks will behave responsibly.

Passive recreation includes running, jogging and biking. Memorial Field, Leisure Lane, Lincoln Park, Sunset Park and Van Winkle Park will be OPEN. Tryon Field, Wall Field and Tamblyn Field will be CLOSED. Playgrounds, picnic areas, basketball courts, tennis courts and bathrooms are among the places that remain closed. A complete list of closures and the Borough's parks policy in its entirety can be found [here](#).

Employees and park visitors should wear cloth face coverings except when doing so would inhibit that individual's health or the individual is under two years of age. Visitors are required to practice social distancing and no organized or contact activities or sports will be allowed. I have faith that our residents will continue to be respectful of each other. I've worked with Borough employees, governing body and the RPD and determined the current restrictions are needed at this time to help us safely navigate back to a world we recognize. You can help us navigate by complying with these temporary restrictions.

At Monday's Mayor and Council meeting, the council passed a resolution extending the due date for second quarter property taxes to June 1st. It's important to note that taxes not paid by the June 1st deadline will incur interest charges from the original second quarter due date of May 1st. Please understand that the due date extension was not voted on until May 11th because the governor's order allowing such an action was announced after the April 27th Mayor and Council meeting.

Listen for a special treat on Saturday, May 16th as James McGill and Company tour Rutherford playing classic songs and raising awareness of the 2020 Census. If you've already filled yours out, take the opportunity to reach out to friends and family to remind them how important it is for all Rutherford residents be counted as the Borough receives federal funding and grants based on our population. It also factors into our representation in Washington DC.

Finally, by now you've probably heard that two of our thriving downtown restaurants were victims of a fire in the early morning hours this past Wednesday. Jim Dandy's and Mambo Tea House have been important members of the community for years. Councilmembers and I are in contact with the owners of these businesses and are doing everything within our powers to help them during this time. It's important to know that Mambo will move all their operations to their other facility, Mambo Empanadas, on Union Ave. Please support them by patronizing their Union Ave location at 313 Union Ave. I'd like to thank the Rutherford Volunteer Fire Department for their swift response as always.

Stay safe, stay responsible.

- Mayor Frank Nunziato
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For to COVID-19 related information:

www.rutherfordboronj.com/covid-information

**Rutherford parks are
reopened with restrictions.**

Running, jogging and biking only.

Please read the Borough's policy for more information.

OPEN:

Memorial Field

Leisure Lane

Lincoln Park

Sunset Park

Van Winkle Park.

CLOSED:


Tryon Field

Wall Field

Tamblyn Field

Council Reports on the following page

 On Twitter:
[@Rutherford07070](https://twitter.com/Rutherford07070)

 On Facebook:
[Borough of Rutherford NJ](https://www.facebook.com/BoroughofRutherfordNJ)

Councilman Mark Goldsack

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At the May 11 Mayor and Council meeting, the following resolutions were passed:

- **Ordinance passed on 2nd 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.87** extending the due date for second quarter property taxes to June 1st. Please note, the Governor's executive order, which authorized us to take this action, did not authorize us to take similar action regarding third quarter property taxes. If the Governor takes action regarding third quarter property taxes, we will be sure to assess the Borough's position and proceed accordingly.

Councilwoman Maria Begg-Roberson

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- Rutherford's Building and Zoning Department has stayed open throughout the pandemic and has provided important services to the borough and residents. Due to COVID-19, the department has been short staffed, nevertheless, all employees have worked diligently to ensure all building and zoning matters are addressed promptly. Frank Recanti, the Department Head of Buildings and Zoning, would like to thank his inspectors, office staff, and technical assistant, Barbara Elzahy, who have all put painstaking effort into meeting borough and residential needs during this unprecedented time.
- Please note that according to [Executive Order 142](#), due to the decrease in the rate of reported new cases of COVID-19, non-essential construction projects are permitted to resume subject to strict social distancing measures. Please contact the building department at 201-460-3010 with any questions and/or clarification regarding any upcoming building projects you may have.

Councilwoman Stephanie McGowan

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- **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.
- **Heroes Thanking Heroes:** On Wednesday, May 6, 2020, the Rutherford Volunteer Fire Department delivered donated food to the staff at St. Mary's General Hospital. The food delivery was the department's way of thanking the first responders at St. Mary's 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. I also want to thank our Borough Employees, Police Department, Fire Department and EMS for keeping us safe during this unprecedented time!

Council President Tom Mullahey

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- This week, we placed our first order for our Military Tribute Banner project. We are proud to announce, we have 43 banner requests and expect more once we begin displaying them some time around Memorial Day.