

May 27, 2022

The Rutherford REPORT

rutherfordboronj.com

THE BOROUGH OF
RUTHERFORD
NEW JERSEY

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Borough of Rutherford NJ

Borough Hall is closed Monday May 30th in observance of Memorial Day

From the Desk of Mayor Frank Nunziato

I'd like to address two very important, but very different topics this week. The first addresses the kinds of bureaucratic details that make a town operate; the second addresses what makes a town a true community.

Stormwater Mitigation & COVID Relief Money

First, Congressman Bill Pascrell's office has selected an appropriation request for \$750,000 to assist with the stormwater mitigation project submitted by Rutherford. The project would make improvements to the Borough's storm water management capabilities. It would mitigate the risk of flooding for area residents through increasing the size of storm water inlets and outlets, expanding the Borough's ability to retain water during rain events, and better protect a historic underground stream.

This appropriation bill has yet to be voted on but I am hopeful it will pass. I'd like to thank Congressman Pascrell for understanding how desperately our Borough needs to help residents repeatedly affected by storms, especially those in the low-lying areas of Jackson, Insley and Carneer Avenues. The funding for these projects would be made available in 2023 Federal budget.

It's likely that the actual vote to award Rutherford this money will not take place until later in the summer, but it can now factor into discussions about how the Borough can responsibly spend its portion of American Rescue Plan Funds.

Rutherford will receive a total of \$1,797,944.18 in two installments, the first of which has already been received. The Federal Government has established eligible uses of these funds, which include offsetting lost public sector revenue, responses to health and economic impacts of COVID, as well as water, sewer and broadband infrastructure.

The Borough has already allocated \$300,000 in the CY 2022 Municipal Budget to offset revenues lost in '20 and '21. We do not want to be reliant on the funding in future years so we anticipate lowering this amount to \$200,000 in the 2023 budget and then \$100,000 in the 2024 budget.

Our 2022 capital road/infrastructure program includes a few stormwater mitigation projects addressing several locations with flooding concerns. The bid amounts for the projects will be received in June. Potentially receiving an additional \$750,000 as a result of Congressman Pascrell's efforts will factor into maximizing the American Rescue Plan Fund spending.

We want to be careful and thoughtful about the uses for the remaining funds in order to maximize the benefit to the community. We will not rush this process but will continue to look for projects that make sense for Rutherford.

Remembering Michele Sabia

This past Saturday, my wife and I had the honor of joining dozens of members of our community to remember Michele Sabia by dedicating a tree in her memory at the entrance of Washington School on Wood Street. Michele was a beloved former Rutherford resident and first grade Washington School teacher whom we tragically lost nearly six years ago to domestic violence.

Since then, Michele's father and Rutherford resident Pete Miragliotta has championed the protection of victims of domestic violence as a board member of The Center for Hope and Safety. I recently had the privilege of meeting with Pete and other board members to learn how our community and I can support their mission.

I was asked to share the following information with our community and I pledged to continue to work with The Center for Hope and Safety whenever possible to help share their life saving information:

If you are feeling unsafe in your home, call Center for Hope and Safety's Domestic Violence Hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – 201-944-9600.

It is not always easy to determine if you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship. Domestic Violence comes in many forms, and affects all types of people. Abusers can be spouses, partners, even adult children. You do not deserve to be abused. Are you at risk? Click here to find out. <https://www.hopeand-safetynj.org/24-hour-hotline/are-you-at-risk/>

Please take a moment to think about Michele and help share the mission of The Center for Hope and Safety. You never know who needs that help.

Sincerely,
Mayor Frank Nunziato



Expect Road Closures Monday for the Memorial Day Parade hosted by the Veterans Alliance

Memorial Day observances will begin at 8am on Monday with a Wreath Toss at the Union Avenue Bridge, then the Color Guard and Veterans Alliance Members will proceed to Sunset Park to ready for a 9:00am parade kick-off. The parade will proceed up Union Avenue to Park Ave with closing services at Borough Hall.

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Primary Election Information

2022 NJ Primary Election

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Polls Open 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

For more information visit the Voter Information page
on the Borough Website

Mayor & Council Meetings Now Livestreaming!

 YouTube youtube.com/c/BoroughHall

Subscribe Today!

Councilman Tom Mullahey tmullahey@rutherfordboronj.com

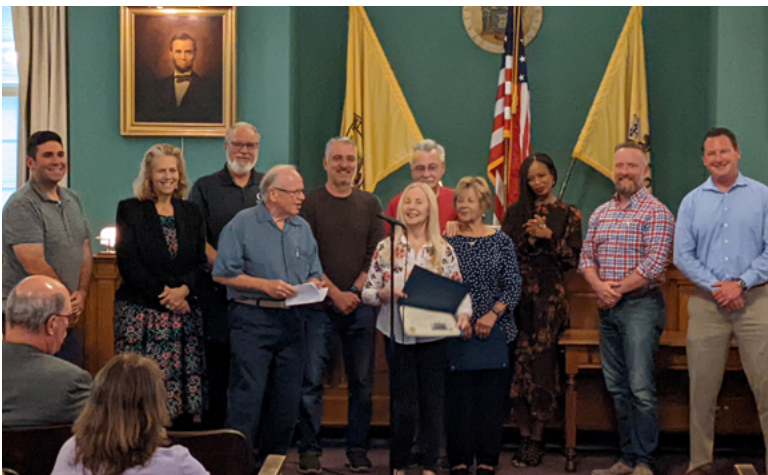
Williams Center:

Last week, Chuck Olivo, owner of the Williams Center, asked the Planning Board for amendments to the redevelopment plan. The amendments passed, making a thriving Williams Center one step closer to reality. The next step in the process will happen when the Council is given the opportunity to vote on those amendments at our next meeting. I know that Chuck recently met with the Borough Green Team to discuss his commitment to sustainability and I'm happy to see talks like this become commonplace.

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

At Monday's meeting, the Historic Preservation Committee awarded three very special residents certificates for their Contribution to Historic Preservation. They were: Gerald and Sharon Vogel of Santiago Avenue, Vincent and Diane Kratz of Orient Way and Diana Hecking of West Passaic Avenue.

Thank you all for the dedication you show as homeowners, which continues to make Rutherford a beautiful place to live.



Councilwoman Stephanie McGowan smcgowan@rutherfordboronj.com

On Sunday, June 12th the Borough will dedicate Wood Street at the intersection of Fairview Ave John T. Ruddy Way.

I had the privilege of knowing John as both a classmate and friend. A graduate of Rutherford High School Class of 1990, John was a leader in academics, athletics, and among his peers through student government. He was generous with his time and passion with art to make the communities he lived and worked in more beautiful.

He committed his life to service as a member of the Jersey City Fire Department, and ultimately rose to the ranks as Battalion Chief. He loved his family and cared for everyone he knew with a kind word and an open heart. John exemplified all of the qualities we love about living here in Rutherford and what we wish for our children as they grow in this community.

Sadly, John passed away at the age of 49 on December 8, 2021. True to our motto: "Once a Bulldog, Always a Bulldog," John's life and legacy will forever be displayed on the corner of Wood Street and Fairview Avenue as a reminder of all that he brought to this world, the lives he impacted, and the inspiration to future generations about being a servant leader and living life with incredible gratitude.

The Borough is coordinating with his family and Jersey City Fire Department as well as the RHS Class of 1990 to create the dedication John so dearly deserves.

A Special Council Meeting has been scheduled to take place on Thursday June 2 2022 at 3pm to authorize a street closure for a reception following the John T. Ruddy Way dedication.