

May 5, 2023

# The Rutherford REPORT

THE BOROUGH OF  
**RUTHERFORD**  
NEW JERSEY

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***Please note - The May 8th Mayor & Council meeting has been cancelled.  
The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, May 22nd.***

## From the Desk of Mayor Frank Nunziato

Please join us on Friday, June 23rd at the 2023 Volunteer Recognition Dinner. I'm happy to announce this year's honoree is Krista Vellis. Krista has a lengthy volunteer resume in Rutherford. I've known her since we served on the Rutherford Education Foundation together and I've always been impressed by her enthusiasm and dedication to the community.

The Volunteer Recognition Dinner is always a great time. I encourage you to get your tickets early as this event has a habit of selling out quickly. Rutherford's own Kurt and Marty performing. Tickets will go on sale through RecDesk on Monday, May 8th.

This week the Borough adopted the CY2023 annual municipal budget as well as our capital improvement plan for the year. For municipal purposes only, the budget does provide for a 1.6% increase in your municipal taxes compared to 2022. While increasing taxes is never our goal, this budget was particularly challenging as we are facing the same increases in costs on our day to day goods and services as you are at home. We are also facing significant increases in our insurance premiums; annual pension payments; and utility costs to name a few. While at the same time we are still feeling the impact of loss revenue from the pandemic. So, keeping the increase below the statutory cap of 2% on the municipal levy required tough decisions and sacrifices. We have been able to mitigate some of the budgetary issues as we are now starting to see the revenue come in from redevelopment in the form of PILOT payments as well as the sale of our first liquor license. This budget will continue to provide the same quality services and events you have come to expect and deserve. We will also explore new opportunities for recurring revenue streams to help us in future years.

I'd like to thank CFO Gordon Stelter and Borough Administrator Bob Kakoleski for all their hard work on this year's budget. This was a particularly challenging year due to heavy increases in insurance premiums. The full budget presentation can be found on the Borough website homepage under "Special Presentations."

Sincerely,  
Mayor Frank Nunziato

**Please expect road closures Saturday, May 6th for the  
2nd Annual Great Duck Derby**

***hosted by the Rutherford Lions Club***

The event will take place from 12:00-3:30 pm on  
West Pierrepoint between Montross & Riverside Aves.



Those roads will be closed as well as Carmita between Vreeland  
and West Pierrepoint Aves between 10:00 am - 5:00 pm.

## Primary Election Information

2023 NJ Primary Election

Tuesday, June 6, 2023 - Polls Open 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

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

***You must re-register to vote if you have not voted  
in any election for four consecutive years, have changed  
your address or changed your name.***



# REPAIR CAFE

## Saturday, May 13

### Rutherford Library 11:30-3:30

(Please use rear auditorium entrance)



**Second Quarter Property Taxes Grace  
Period to May 10**

Second quarter property taxes were 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.

May 5, 2023

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

**Health Department Liaison**

**COVID-19 Immunization Clinic:**

Thursday, May 11th, 2023 3:00pm-7:00pm  
Rutherford Health Department 184 Park Avenue  
To register, visit: [bergen.covidvaccine.com/vaccine/invite](https://bergen.covidvaccine.com/vaccine/invite)  
Pzer Passcode: RutherfordPzer  
Moderna Passcode: RutherfordModerna

Please bring:

- ID and insurance information (if applicable)
- Proof of prior vaccines (vaccine card, Docket app, etc.)

**FREE Skin Cancer Screening:**

Monday, May 15th, 2023 3:30pm-5:30pm  
Rutherford Health Department 184 Park Avenue  
**Call and Schedule your Appointment TODAY! 201-460-3020**

**Police Liaison**

Congratulations to Rutherford Police Sergeant Sean Walker, Sergeant Bruce Reed and Lieutenant Jeff Wilkinson on their recent promotions. They were officially promoted last week and their swearing-ins will take place this coming week. Thank you for being part of the finest police force in the area!

**Councilwoman Susan Quatrone**  
squatrone@rutherfordboronj.com

As Buildings and Grounds liaison, I am thrilled to give an update on a very important town construction project that will increase access to Borough Hall for elderly and uniquely-abled residents. Borough Hall was built in the early 1900's, long before the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), so a lot of work needs to be done to remove physical barriers to access for all town residents.

The Borough is currently working on constructing a ramp at Borough Hall's northern entrance, adjacent to the Post Office. The ramp will lead to a new door into the lower level of Borough Hall close to the elevator. This will enable individuals to have easier access to crucial town services such as the tax office, clerk's office, Board of Education, Council Chambers and Municipal Court which all reside on the higher floors. This construction work is primarily funded through a Community Development Block Grant, and is projected to be completed before the summer begins.

It is critical that Rutherford signals to all residents and visitors that everyone truly is recognized and welcome here. We are committed to improving Rutherford's compliance with ADA guidelines, and I urge residents to contact me if there are public buildings or spaces in town you believe need to have accessibility upgrades. Thank you.

**Councilman Matthew Cokeley**  
mcokeley@rutherfordboronj.com

**Rutherford Fire Department**

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Rutherford Volunteer Firefighter - youth or adult - email [recruitment@rutherfordfd.com](mailto:recruitment@rutherfordfd.com). The Rutherford Fire Department's Junior Firefighter's program is now open to 16 and 17 year old youths.

Applications and requirements to be a Firefighter and Junior Firefighter are now available on the Borough website. <https://www.rutherfordboronj.com/departments/fire-department/>

**Arts Committee**

Big thanks to Jennifer Gonzalez of Painting on Park for loaning her students' artwork for the current Clara's Tunnel installation. Please take a walk through the tunnel and check it out. You won't be disappointed!



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

Hello neighbors. I have had the good fortune of being able to spend a lot of time in the past two weeks supporting the efforts of our various children and teens in town. Congratulations to everyone who was involved in Union School's production of Legally Blonde Jr. The talent and effort were inspiring. I also spent a bit of time cheering on our girls' teams both in lacrosse and softball. This town is bursting with strong and impressive athletes. This is only the second year that our girls' high school lacrosse team has been playing and their record is remarkable. Please continue to support all of our programming when time allows. There is no shortage of things to do in our town on a weekend. The players and performers love and deserve a packed crowd. Thank you again to the Green Team for planning another successful Clean Up Day. I appreciate how much our Scouts programs contribute to that effort year over year. Please note that the second Rutherford Repair Cafe of the year will be on May 13 at the Library beginning at 11:30 am. The team that participates really does an excellent job of making that which was old, new again. I am already scouring my house to see what needs some repair magic.