

June 16, 2023

# The Rutherford REPORT

THE BOROUGH OF  
**RUTHERFORD**  
NEW JERSEY

On Twitter:  
@Rutherford07070

rutherfordboronj.com

On Facebook:  
Borough of Rutherford NJ

**Borough Hall will be closed in observance of Juneteenth on Monday, June 19th**



**Wednesdays  
in June!**  
*with music by  
Rutherford Rocks!*



**Wednesdays & Saturdays  
July 5th - October 28th**  
Williams Center Plaza

## From the Desk of Mayor Frank Nunziato

There's a lot fun things happening in Rutherford before the summer officially begins!

In addition to listings on the Borough calendar, check out the "Upcoming Events" link on the Borough homepage. There, you'll find a chronological listing and description of the many events happening in town.

I'd like to thank the Green Team for hosting a Composting Workshop on June 24th and for working with the DPW to organize the very useful Shred Day & Styrofoam Collection. Help keep excess waste out of landfills and bring down what you can to the DPW Garage on Saturday, July 1st.

And for all volunteers in Rutherford, please join us at the annual Mayor's Volunteer Dinner, this year on Friday, June 23rd at the Hilton Meadowlands with music by Kurt and Marty. [Tickets available now on RecDesk.](#)

Sincerely,  
Mayor Frank Nunziato

## 2023 Mayor's Volunteer Recognition Dinner



**Friday, June 23rd  
7-11pm  
Hilton Meadowlands**  
**Krista Vellis**  
*Volunteer of the Year*

**[Tickets available on RecDesk](#)**

## Composting Workshop - Saturday, June 24th, 10:00am

**Learn the Ins and Outs of  
Composting in Your Own Backyard or Apartment!**  
Rutherford Community Garden 280 West Erie Ave  
Rain Date: June 25th

**Sponsor: The Rutherford Green Team**  
**Speaker: Brian Hanson-Harding, Rutherford resident  
& Author of Composting: Turn Food Waste into Rich Soil**

## All Happening Saturday, July 1st

### Shred Day & Styrofoam Collection 9am-1pm

**DPW Garage (220 Highland Cross)**

**Open to Rutherford Residents Only,  
proof of ID required.**

**Limit of 4 boxes of paper for  
shredding per person.**

**Don't throw your Styrofoam in the landfill.**

**Bring your clean, dry non-food contact Styrofoam  
packaging to the Drive for recycling.**

### 91st Annual Baby Parade

**CHECK IN: 9:30 AM at 56 Elliott Place  
START TIME: 10:00 AM at Elliott Place  
(Between Home Ave & Mortimer Ave)**

**GRAND PRIZE: \$100.00  
10 - \$50.00 Prizes**

**Entrants must be no older than  
5 years old! Rutherford residents only**

**[Pre-Register on RecDesk](#)**

### Fireworks at Memorial Field!

**Festivities begin  
around 7pm  
Sponsored by  
Felician University**

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

### Recreation Department

Fall Youth Sports - Registration Opens June 15th - Closes July 31st  
Play begins 2nd week of September  
Rutherford offers Recreation Soccer for children in grades K - 8  
This fall Rec will also offer: Youth Cross Country, Tennis

### Moms Demand Action Meeting at Rutherford Library.

I have extended an invitation to Moms Demand Action, a remarkable grassroots movement of concerned citizens advocating for public safety measures to combat gun violence. This introductory meeting is at the Rutherford Library on Saturday, June 18, at 11 am. Their dedication to creating a safer environment for all Americans is truly inspiring. I firmly believe that by working together, we can make a significant difference in protecting our community from the devastating effects of gun violence.

### Rutherford's First Black Councilman

I would like to take a moment to discuss an important historical figure from our community who deserves recognition for his significant contributions. Alonzo Sisco served as Rutherford's first Black councilman. He was a trailblazer and a respected member of our town.

Councilman Sisco hailed from a long line of Rutherfordians who have called this area home for 300 years. Tragically, Councilman Sisco's life was cut short by a heart attack at the young age of 49 in 1980. His impact, however, lives on through his numerous contributions to our borough. His wife, Sandy, also an esteemed member of our community and a teacher at Pierrepont School, continues to reside in Rutherford with her family.

Over the next few months, we will work diligently with his family to ensure that Councilman Sisco's story is told, preserving his memory for generations to come. I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to Councilman Sisco's family for their collaboration in ensuring his story is acknowledged and shared appropriately.

Please stay tuned for further updates regarding the plans to honor Councilman Sisco. Together, we will create a tribute that reflects the depth of his impact and commemorates his service to our borough.

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

This week the Council voted to support a Redevelopment Agreement and PILOT for the Williams Center.

The Williams Center project is near and dear to my heart. Generations of my family have visited the Center and Rivoli Theater. Before I ran for office, I was involved in a community movement to save the theater from auction. I truly believe that preservation and transformation of the Williams Center historic theater and cinemas is vital for this town's future health and prosperity.

I believe we should be very careful and transparent in how we evaluate whether a redevelopment project requires a PILOT, as not all projects merit one. I do believe a PILOT makes sense in this case. The owner of the Williams Center has already invested a lot in a very ambitious, expensive, challenging and high risk project. The PILOT program is intended to help ensure the success of redevelopment projects that can benefit and improve the community, as the Williams Center certainly can do in Rutherford.

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

### Police Liaison

Congratulations to Patrick O'Keefe and Dylan Caughey, who were appointed to be the newest members of the Rutherford Police Department at Monday's meeting. Welcome aboard, gentlemen. Thank you for your dedication to our community.

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

Hello neighbors. As you may know, the governing body took action on the Williams Center redevelopment project at Monday's meeting. Our professionals - both attorneys and financial advisors - spent time at the meeting explaining a variety of the issues that have been part of key questions and conversations around that project. The beauty of technology is that even those who cannot attend our meetings in person can view them on YouTube. I encourage you to utilize that opportunity and ask questions. We cannot respond to everything that comes up on social media but we certainly can be reached by email.

On Wednesday I had the pleasure of joining the Rutherford Elks and the Scouts as they celebrated Flag Day on the lawn of Borough Hall. Our country's flag has a beautiful and complex history and I was honored to learn about it through my neighbors. It is a worthwhile event to join in the coming years if your schedule allows.

One million congratulations and thanks to the Rutherford Pride Alliance for, once again, hosting a phenomenal, fun and inclusive Pride (& Joy) Festival and flag raising.

Please join me on the evening of Monday, June 19 to celebrate Juneteenth at Mt. Ararat Church. This non-denominational celebration will include a panel discussion with the theme of "Building a Foundation for Positive Change." This is an important opportunity for us to share learning about a critical moment in our country's history. The event begins at 6:30 pm but please join with your families whenever you are able. Refreshments will be served after the event.

If the Williams Center succeeds, we all do. The Newman Theater (formerly Rivoli) is a stunning and beautiful space. Creating a community art center around it highlighting high level creative performances and community collaboration in the center of downtown will do wonders for Rutherford.

But don't just take my word for it. The Williams Center has been showcasing many unique artistic acts and events for many months now. Each week they show art house movies in the Newman Theater. They regularly host musical groups, non-profit fundraisers, holiday-themed community parties, antique markets, game nights and much more. I urge everyone to come out and support the Center's offerings. The whole town needs to invest in this project for it to succeed.

I hope to communicate with residents on this subject as we move forward. Please email me with questions and views on this project and its role in the future of our town.