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Borough of Rutherford NJ

From the desk of Mayor Frank Nunziato

I'm pleased give some encouraging news for Rutherford to counter the steady stream of negativity we've dealt with. As you may be aware, there has long been an unused section of railroad track on the northern border of town from just east of Montross Ave extending west to the Passaic River.

Many people referred to this stretch of land as the "Rutherford High Line," but because it was owned by the Norfolk Southern Railway, local development of the land has been impossible - until now. **I'm happy to be able to announce that Norfolk Southern has agreed to transfer ownership of the 1.2 miles of land to Bergen County, which in turn has plans to create a County Park in its place.**

To say I'm excited that our residents will have easy access to a brand new County Park with much needed recreational space is an understatement. For years, residents (myself included) dreamt about what a great space the "High Line" could be if properly developed. Soon, those dreams will become a reality. Of course any project of this size will not happen overnight. It could take a few years and a lot of communication between Bergen County and local officials, as the land straddles the border of Rutherford and East Rutherford. Details such as dates for when the project will commence are still being worked out, but I will of course keep you updated on the progress as it happens. I'd like thank County Executive James Tedesco facilitating this project that will surely be a fantastic addition to Rutherford and East Rutherford.

As we slowly regain some sense of normalcy, the **Farmers' Market will return to the Williams Plaza beginning Wednesday July 1.** The market will observe Covid 19 guidelines; both vendors and patrons must wear a mask and observe social distancing protocols. Hand sanitizer will be available.

As restaurants are permitted to operate at 25% capacity soon, **Dining Under The Stars will be planned for every Wednesday**, weather permitting. In the event of rain, we will close Park Avenue on Thursdays instead. I met with many of our restaurant owners today and had a great discussion about how we as a Borough can best support them. The consensus was that Wednesday evenings are the most popular for dining out locally in the summer. So far this event has been a great success and I'd like to thank everyone who eagerly came out to support our local restaurants. Please remember that retail shopping is open too!

Thank you,
Mayor Frank Nunziato

REC

[SUMMER CONTESTS! RUTHERFORD REC PHOTO & SIDEWALK CHALK CONTESTS!](#)

Also please visit the Rec Dept page and check out their new online craft & outdoor dance classes!

Wednesdays in Rutherford The perfect mid-week break!



**The
Farmers'
Market
Returns
July 1!**

Wednesdays 11am-4pm
Saturdays 8am-2pm (Beginning July 11)



Wednesdays 5-10 pm *Weather Permitting*
Park Ave from the Library to Ames Ave will be closed
Check the Borough website for list of restaurants offering outdoor dining.

Councilman Ray Guzman

rguzman@rutherfordboronj.com

I'd like to remind all Rutherford residents that July 7th is Primary Day. Please mail in your ballots you received as soon as possible. For your convenience there is a Vote by Mail box located outside of Borough Hall (176 Park Ave) for drop off.

Also, The Rutherford Public library will begin curbside pickup starting June 29th. There are two designated parking spaces located on Park Ave next to the library.

More Council Reports on the following page

Councilman Mark Goldsack

mgoldsack@rutherfordboronj.com

Finance

Passed - Authorization to enter into an agreement with Neglia Engineering to act as the Coordinator/Administrator of the following projects in the amount of \$15,200.00:

- 1) Diamonds 5&6 Lighting - installation of new state of the art lighting system which is supported by Green Acres funding.
- 2) Orient Way Pedestrian Improvement Project - Expansion of Rapid Rectangular Flashing beacons with sidelights that are activated when pedestrians cross.
- 3) 17 West Passaic demolition - removal of existing structure and site clearing and grading in relation to construction of the new Police building.

In their capacity as coordinator/administrator Neglia will be responsible for providing and reviewing contractor submissions, project scheduling and adherence, document submissions to Green Acres, review and approval of contractor requests for payment, submission to the NJ Department of Environmental protection for cost reimbursement and construction coordination and observation.

Passed Resolution No. 107 - This resolution authorizes the Borough to execute an agreement with Bergen County for Cares Act reimbursements related to expenses the Borough incurred as a result of our response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Shade Tree Commission

Please be advised beginning the week of July 6th five (5) trees will be taken down along Park Avenue. Two (2) will be taken down near Dairy Queen and three (3) will be taken down across the street from Dairy Queen near the gas station. Unfortunately, these trees have reached the end of their lives and have become diseased and therefore, as a matter of public safety, must be taken down. The Shade Tree Division of the Department of Public Works plans on reforesting this area when we begin our fall tree planting.

Planning Board

The Planning Board will hold its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, July 16th at 7pm. Please visit the Borough website to view the agenda once it is released days prior to the meeting.

Councilwoman Maria Begg-Roberson

mbegg-roberson@rutherfordboronj.com

The Rutherford Green Team is continuing to support the Borough as we aim to create a more environmentally sustainable neighborhood for residents. The gardening plots for rent in the community garden are 100% full thanks to our residents. We look forward to seeing you gardening over the summer.

The Green Team plans periodic "Green Drinks" in the community. Due to social distancing, the event has been taking place via Zoom. It is an opportunity for residents to grab a drink or a snack while chatting with like-minded people about green issues in our community. Please like the Rutherford Green Team Facebook page and follow on Instagram to stay abreast of upcoming events.

In honor of Earthday 2020 and the Rutherford Green Team's current work renewing the Borough's Sustainable Jersey Certification status, the Green Team has made a goal of getting borough residents to participate in some common challenges that collectively make an impact on the sustainability of our community. [Sign up to participate in this fun challenge here.](#)

Councilwoman Stephanie McGowan

smcgowan@rutherfordboronj.com

Covid-19 Mobile Unit and Antibody Testing in Rutherford

On Tuesday, June 23, 2020, the Bergen New Bridge Medical Center in partnership with the County of Bergen offered the Covid-19 and Antibodies test for those with or without symptoms in Rutherford. Hosted at the Memorial Parking Lot on Darwin Avenue, 390 Covid-19 saliva tests were conducted, and 220 Covid-19 Antibody tests were done as well. Borough first responders and employees were allowed entry at 9am, and residents of Rutherford and the County of Bergen were tested between 10am-2:30pm free of charge. Thank you to Bergen County Jim Tedesco & the Bergen County Freeholders, Mayor Nunziato and the Rutherford Borough Council, and to our Rutherford OEM Director and Captain of the Rutherford Ambulance Squad Mike Taranatino, for ensuring that Rutherford be a selected site to provide assistance to our residents and for those across Bergen County.

The COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program

(CVERAP) will provide temporary rental assistance to low- and moderate-income households that have had a substantial reduction in income or became unemployed due the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants may be eligible for a maximum of up to six months of emergency rental assistance. CVERAP Pre-applications will only be accepted ONLINE. The open enrollment period is Monday, July 6, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. to Friday, July 10, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. For information and application, please visit: <https://nj.gov/dca/divisions/dhcr/offices/cverap.html>