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Borough of Rutherford NJ

July 16, 2021

## From the Desk of Acting Mayor Mark Goldsack

In light of discussion surrounding the Parker II redevelopment plan at Monday's meeting, I'd like to discuss the process by which all redevelopment plans happen. The process is designed to give the public ample opportunity to express their concerns. We currently have the Parker Phase II redevelopment plan for the Mayor and Council for consideration. The public has expressed to us different concerns. The plan, as introduced, is a draft plan until it is adopted by the Mayor and Council. It was up for first reading on Monday, and the council voted in favor of it. It will be up for second reading at our next meeting at which time the public will have another opportunity to speak to it. If it is adopted, then the redeveloper can submit a site plan for review to the Planning Board. At that time, a lot of the concerns that have been raised, such as required parking and set backs can be addressed and we can address them in the redeveloper's agreement.

I think history has shown that this Mayor and Council does in fact listen to the concerns of the community, and last year's vote to not allow additional height to the Agnew Place redevelopment plan proves that. Sometimes we may not agree with everything asserted by the public. But we do factor what is said in the public's ample opportunities to speak into our decision making process. I can only speak for myself, but I do want our residents to know that I personally try to make a determination about what redevelopment project to see whether it will benefit or make a difference for our town on a case by case basis. One does not set a precedent for another when it comes to how I cast my vote, when I have the opportunity to vote.

Regarding the Williams Center, the Borough is currently in discussions with interested parties that are providing proof of reliable financial backing. These discussions include what the developer's goals are for the property as a whole and the Newman Theater specifically. We are doing the best we can to make sure something comes to fruition and that the developer has the proper financing to take on such a heavy lift. I am simultaneously keeping lines of communication open with the County so they know what to expect from us. I want to thank Councilman Mullahey for all the hard work he's put into this during his years as liaison to the Williams Center as well as my other Council colleagues.

Sincerely,  
- Acting Mayor Mark Goldsack



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[www.rutherfordboronj.com/notifications](http://www.rutherfordboronj.com/notifications)



Every Wednesday  
with Thursday Rain Dates



Wednesdays & Saturdays  
Through October 30  
Williams Center Plaza

## Summer Concert Series @ Lincoln Park Thursdays 8pm!

## Department News

REC

[RecDesk Comprehensive Online  
Registration System Now Open!](#)

TAX  
COLLECTOR

Third Quarter Estimated Bill have been mailed.  
Payments are due August 1 with a 10 day grace  
period to August 10 without interest.



July 16, 2021

## Council Reports

### Councilman Matthew Cokeley

mcokeley@rutherfordboronj.com

**Cannabis Ordinance:** As many of you may have noted recently, the mayor & council have joined in Senator Paul Sarlo's effort to prohibit Class 5 & 6 cannabis license types (Retail & Delivery) in southern Bergen county.

On Monday, July 12th, the mayor & council voted on a first-reading of an ordinance which would allow for the other 4 available cannabis license types within the state of NJ:

**Class 1 Cannabis Cultivation License.**

**Class 2 Cannabis Manufacturer License.**

**Class 3 Cannabis Wholesaler License.**

**Class 4 Cannabis Distributor License.**

Further, the ordinance restricts Class 1-4 licenses to areas and land east of Rte. 17.

Collectively, we have done exhaustive research during this process to craft an ordinance which will benefit and protect Rutherford for years to come should a state sanctioned company decide to approach us with their operating plans. As stated during Monday's meeting, the Borough of Rutherford will be competing with the other 564 municipalities for businesses such as these and we will continue to execute our due diligence in order to bring the appropriate business into our community.

I also want to thank my colleagues for listening to the research, facts and science behind this effort while avoiding the pitfalls of stereotype and stigma surrounding this industry.

As always, we are actively pursuing ways to generate revenue for the Borough without raising taxes. This is an opportunity ripe for our area and we look forward beginning the next phase of the process later this year.

A copy of the ordinance can be found in the agenda from Monday's meeting:

<https://storage.googleapis.com/static.rutherford-nj.com/borough-clerk/mayor-and-council/agendas/7.12.2021%20Agenda%20Packet.pdf>

**Rutherford FD:** 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.

**Social Services:** Families in need of emergency food please contact the Social Services Director, Genevieve Kacmarcik, at 201-460-3028 or [gkacmarcik@rutherfordboronj.com](mailto:gkacmarcik@rutherfordboronj.com) or me directly at [mcokeley@rutherfordboronj.com](mailto:mcokeley@rutherfordboronj.com) and we can connect you with the Rutherford Food Pantry.

### Councilwoman Stephanie McGowan

smcgowan@rutherfordboronj.com

#### Recreation Liaison:

- Summer camp is well under way and our Recreation team continues to offer opportunities for our community throughout the summer.
- Be sure to enjoy our Rutherford Summer Concerts every Thursday, (rain date the following Monday) in Lincoln Park at the Hutzler Bandshell from 8:00-10:00pm.
- If you have not done so already, be sure to register on our new platform "Rec Desk" at <https://rutherfordnj.recdesk.com/community/home>. Great opportunities such as Track & Field, as well as Dance Classes for ages 3-7 are currently available.

#### Kip Center

Mark your calendars to support the 55 Kip Center's Casino Night on Friday, October 22 nd from 7:00- 11:00pm at the Fiesta! If you would like to sponsor this event and assist in continuing the program offerings of this amazing organization, please contact the event planning team at 201-460-1600.

### Councilman Ray Guzmán

rguzman@rutherfordboronj.com

#### The Rutherford Public Library

##### Summer Reading Club Registration

It's not too late to sign up for this year's Summer Reading Club, "Tails & Tales". All Rutherford children up to 6th grade are welcome to participate. Sign up here or by visiting the library.

##### Rutherford Sketchbook Project

The Rutherford Sketchbook Project, offered in collaboration with the Rutherford Arts Council, is going on now. Library cardholders are invited to borrow a blank sketchbook from the library and fill it with their own drawings, artwork, writing, etc. Completed sketchbooks will become part of a permanent collection for other users to enjoy. Visit the library to get started.