

July 21, 2023

The Rutherford REPORT

rutherfordboronj.com



THE BOROUGH OF
RUTHERFORD
NEW JERSEY



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WILLIAMS CENTER PLAZA

Wednesdays 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Saturdays 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

From the Desk of Mayor Frank Nunziato

Due to the magnitude of the exciting news I shared at Monday's meeting, I'd like to reiterate the statement that was put out regarding the upgrade of Memorial Park, in case you missed it. You can also read Senator Sarlo's memo on the last page of this newsletter:

I have some very exciting news that I'd like to announce. Senator Paul Sarlo, Assemblyman Clinton Calabrese and Assemblyman Gary Schaer have secured \$5 million appropriation from this year's state budget for the Borough of Rutherford to bring Memorial Park into the 21st century.

Even before receiving this great news, this spring Councilwoman Begg-Roberson, Recreation liaison, requested a field study be done to determine how we should allocate our field space for maximum efficiency.

Our Borough Architects are now nearing completion of the study. Later this summer, the final rendering of the proposed concept will be presented at a joint press conference with Senator Sarlo as well as the other state and county officials who made this possible.

Since the creation of these fields in the first half of the 20th century, the amount of sports that vie for playable space has increased dramatically.

This is one of the most exciting infrastructure projects the Borough of Rutherford has seen in generations. It will provide the opportunity for all Rutherford leagues to expand their programming and host tournaments by providing a more welcoming and dynamic environment.

Once the Borough officially receives the grant award, the Borough Administrator will work with the architect to develop a proposed timeline for improvements in a reasonable and responsible manner. Recreation Liaison, Councilwoman Maria Begg-Roberson and/or Buildings & Grounds Liaison, Councilwoman Susan Quatrone and myself will provide updates throughout the process.

Sincerely,
Mayor Frank Nunziato

Tuesday,
August 1st
6-8pm
Lincoln Park

Contact
Admin. Sgt. Tom Lewis at
tlewis@rutherfordpd.com
if you'd like your organization
to participate



Rutherford Day

9/23/2023

Sign up your community organization
through the Borough website
now under Upcoming Events!



RUTHERFORD SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Lincoln Park - Hutzel Bandshell on Park Avenue
THURSDAYS - 8:00PM - 10:00PM
Rain Dates the following Monday

JULY 27 Royal Scam
AUGUST 3 Big House
AUGUST 10 Kimon & the Prophets
AUGUST 17 Kurt & Marty Band

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Council President Stephanie McGowan

smcgowan@rutherfordboronj.com

This week, the Mayor and Council affirmed the designation of M&M at Rutherford Urban Renewal Company LLC as Redeveloper of the area including block 77, lots 5,6,15 & 16; as well as block 78, lots 1, 1.02, 2, 5, 7, 14, 16 & 18. This designation also included the Agnew Place Right-of-Way that separates blocks 77 and 78, and execution of a Redevelopment Agreement. As shared during the meeting, a review of the Agnew timeline was provided to ensure that all members of the M&C, as well as the public, were reminded of what steps were taken prior to this discussion and vote.

In Spring 2019, the M&C approved a 6 stories/140 units redevelopment plan. During the Summer and Fall 2020, the developer requested an increase in the previously approved project to 8 stories/184 units. Based on the feedback provided by the advisory committees, boards, and residents, the M&C rejected this request. In the Fall 2021, the M&C approved the "Redeveloper's Agreement" and PILOT for the 6 stories/140 units for the project with affordable housing units to be built "on site." At that time, the developers did not sign the agreement as they proposed an "off-site" solution on Kip Avenue. Since this proposal required extensive discussions with the state's Fair Share Housing representatives and the Special Master assigned to the Borough specific to our affordable housing obligation, negotiations between the developer and the Borough have been ongoing.

Both Mayor Nunziato and I participated with the Borough Administrator, our attorneys, Fair Share Housing representatives, and the developers about the importance of ensuring that while meeting our obligation for affordable housing, we also felt strongly that establishing "supportive" housing for members of the disability community was essential. This unique opportunity provided our Borough a meaningful way to provide housing for disabled community members who wish to live independent and productive lives but may need additional assistance to do so. This prime location will enable residents to be active members of our 55 Kip Center, as well as have easy access to mass transportation and our amazing downtown. As a Borough, we are not just saying we support the Access for All movement but will continue to build and support a community that is accessible and inclusive of all her residents. The significance of this vote during the month of July, Disabilities Awareness Month, is a reminder to all across New Jersey to remain vigilant in advocating and taking action to build inclusive and accessible communities.

The unanimous vote Monday evening was to support this "off-site" affordable housing project subject to approval by Fair Share, the Special Master and the court. The Borough will contribute \$275,000 per unit (7) from the Borough's Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which was not a part of the Agnew developer's obligation. Additionally, 15 parking spaces in the Kip garage will be utilized for residents of this project in return for a commitment of \$100,000 by the developer specific to improving the Kip garage.

Councilwoman Susan Quatrone

squatrone@rutherfordboronj.com

Sending a huge thank you to Senator Sarlo, Assemblyman Calabrese and Assemblyman Schaer who were able to secure \$5 million in this year's State Budget for improvements to Memorial Field. The funding will allow for significant improvements to the field's facilities and programming and will benefit current and future generations of Rutherford families. As a parent to a rising 4th grader who is very active in soccer, track, softball (and maybe cheerleading in the future), I am thrilled that she and other children in town will be able to witness Memorial transformed into a field of their dreams and to know how much this community values their ability to compete and flourish in sports of all kinds. As Building and Grounds liaison, I look forward to working with Mayor Nunziato, the Borough Administrator and Architect and my fellow Councilmembers to ensure this generous state funding leads to a state of the art park for the 21st Century.

Children's Book Sale

The Friends of the Library will host a used book sale focusing solely on children's materials on Friday, July 21 from 10am-4:30pm and Monday, July 24 from 10am-5:30pm. Stop by the library auditorium and stock up on a great selection of titles that will entertain your kids this summer.

Councilwoman Christie Del Rey-Cone

cdelrey-cone@rutherfordboronj.com

Hello Neighbors. I was excited by the level of engagement at this week's meeting during which we discussed various development projects and the visions of many residents for our shared communities. While there is no one-size-fits-all approach to community building, I remain a staunch believer in the fact that the more we discuss, the closer we get to agreement. Please continue to ask questions and seek out information. If you do not know where to find the information you seek, please reach out to the Borough employees or governing body. Congratulations again to the family of former Councilman Alonzo Sisco, Jr. on his recognition as an avid community contributor and our beautiful Borough's first Black Councilman. It is important that we reach into our history to build our future and the Cisco family's contributions are truly a testament to that. We are nearly half way through summer. Enjoy every moment.

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

Alonzo Sisco, Jr. Way



I am so pleased to announce that at Monday's meeting, we approved the intersection of Crane Ave and Orient Way to be named Alonzo Sisco, Jr. Way. Alonzo Sisco Jr., was a Rutherford Councilman who lived at this intersection until his sudden death on December 10th, 1980. Mr. Sisco was a lifelong Rutherford resident and Korean War veteran who was a dedicated servant to our great Borough.

There will be a public ceremony there on Saturday, September 9th at approximately 11am. All will be invited to join to honor this man's legacy with his family!

Recreation Department

I'm thrilled with the exciting news that Memorial Park is about to embark on a much needed upgrade thanks to funding secured by Senator Paul Sarlo and Assemblymen Gary Schaer and Clinton Calabrese. I'm looking forward to sharing updates, along with Mayor Nunziato and Councilwoman Quatrone about how this will help our Recreation programming as they develop!

Fall Youth Sports - Registration Open Now!

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

First Ever Doggie Parade!

Save the date! October 28! Rutherford is having its first ever doggie Paw-rade! More details will be available as the fall approaches, but this will be a fun event that all Rutherford dog owners can participate in. Dogs must be licensed with the Borough of Rutherford. For licensing information please contact the Rutherford Police Department or visit this page:

www.rutherfordboronj.com/departments/police/additional-services/pets-animals

Councilman Ray Guzmán
rguzman@rutherfordboronj.com

Police Liaison

Please park safely and responsibly. Unfortunately, double parking Downtown is becoming routine. Our officers are enforcing traffic laws, but we need drivers to park in designated parking spaces and never in fire lanes or double park even if its for a few minutes. It creates dangerous situations for other drivers and pedestrians.

Health Liaison

Free Glaucoma & Vision Screening

Tuesday, August 8th - 2:00pm - 6:00pm

Rutherford Health Department -184 Park Ave

Call 201-460-3020 for an appointment.

Councilman Matthew Cokeley
mcokeley@rutherfordboronj.com

At Monday's Council meeting, July 17th, I notified the community that my efforts and work to revise our current Cannabis ordinance to include Class 5 (retail) & 6 (delivery) licenses will go before you, the general public, as a referendum question at the general election this November 7th, 2023.

The referendum question will specifically reference our designated cannabis zone and the fact that NO dispensary will open their doors along our primary business zones nor within our general residential areas commonly referred to as Rutherford proper. These new licenses will adhere to the current ordinance and be restricted to commercial properties across Rte. 17.

In the interim and leading up to the referendum, I will continue to present my research and findings in these newsletters and at council meetings. In the weeks leading up to the general election, the communications director and I will host a town hall with a panel of professionals who can field and answer any and all concerns about the industry and the positive effects it has on communities.

This town hall will be slated at some point during the last weeks of September or Early October. Please keep an eye on future newsletters for confirmation date.

This is a pivotal decision to Rutherford's economic future. As I have said for months, we can not continue to sustain our budget growth on taxes and development alone. We are in desperate need of new, recurring revenue streams if we are to continue to care for this place we all call home.

If there are any questions or concerns between now and the town hall or general election referendum, please feel free to contact me at this email address. I would be delighted to discuss and share the wealth of factual information and statistics about how this industry can benefit us moving forward.



NEW JERSEY SENATE

PAUL A. SARLO

DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

38TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
498 COLUMBIA BOULEVARD, 1ST FLOOR
WOOD-RIDGE, NEW JERSEY 07075
PHONE: (201) 804-8118
FAX: (201) 804-8644

COMMITTEES
CHAIRMAN
BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS
JUDICIARY

July 17, 2023

Honorable Mayor & Council
Borough of Rutherford

Dear Mayor & Council:

I am writing on behalf of my District 36 Legislative colleagues, Assemblymember Gary Schaer and Assemblymember Clinton Calabrese, to share some exciting news regarding funding from the FY2024 State Budget for a capital project in your community.

The FY2024 State Budget includes an appropriation for Rutherford of \$5,000,000 for the Memorial Park Field Renovations capital project.

In my role as Chairman of the Senate's Budget and Appropriations Committee, I was the Prime Sponsor of the FY2024 State Budget and Appropriations Act that provides this funding to your community. Assemblymembers Schaer and Calabrese worked closely with me to sponsor this appropriation in the State General Assembly.

We are very pleased to be able to provide your community with funding for this project. We are certain that this project will be enjoyed by your residents and greatly improve the quality of life in your community while significantly reducing the tax burden on your taxpayers.

The State Budget was adopted on June 30, 2023 and covers the 2024 Fiscal Year from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Your grant will be administered by the NJ Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA). In the coming months NJDCA will provide you with details on how the funding will be transmitted to your community.

Congratulations on being awarded this budget appropriation. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions or if we can provide any other assistance.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Sarlo
Senator, District 36