



From the desk of Mayor Frank Nunziato

As we look toward good things that are happening in Rutherford, I can now announce that the Borough has reached an agreement with Linque Equities to build light industrial warehouses on a 22-acre site east of Route 17 on Veteran's Blvd. In years past, this land had been discussed as a potential site for a large housing development and strip mall. Instead, this large warehouse will bring jobs and ratables to town. You should begin seeing progress in the next several months.

The Agnew Place redevelopment passed on first read at Monday's meeting. Over the next few weeks we will provide more information about this development to keep the public educated about this project.

I'd like to thank the resident who donated \$30,000 to pay for the closure of Park Avenue for 10 additional nights from now through the the fall. The generosity and kindness of this anonymous donor will help our businesses at this most critical time. Please remind your friends and family who may live out of town that Rutherford has safe outdoor dining twice a week all summer and into the fall. Of course this resident may be unique in their ability to provide such a large donation, but I hope it will inspire the rest of us to give when we can and at the very least patronize our local businesses in their hour of need.

In addition to closing Park Ave, the Borough has allowed restaurants to create decorative "parklets." By setting up semi-permanent cement barriers in parking spaces, restaurants can place more tables in the street and allow for more customers to sit down and dine while indoor dining restrictions are still in effect. You can expect to see these parklets in the streets through the fall.

Finally, on July 7th I officially signed the acknowledgment of Norfolk Southern's abandonment of the old railway line to make way for a County Park. I look forward to working with the County and the Borough of East Rutherford to see this project come to fruition. I will also be creating a vision committee of residents to work with the County and East Rutherford. More information on this committee will be provided in the coming months.

Thank you, Mayor Frank Nunziato



**SUMMER CONTESTS! RUTHERFORD REC
PHOTO & SIDEWALK CHALK CONTESTS!**

Youth Programs:

- **Dance Social Distance- Parent & Child, 5-7, 8-13 yrs**
- **Zoom! Arts & Crafts**
- **Weekly Photo Contest**
- **Weekly Side walk chalk art**

Adult Programs:

- **Co-ed Volleyball- 8 teams (10-15 on a roster) COVID Prep Plan, all team Captains will be doing wellness checks prior to play, sanitizing the ball between sets**
- **Yoga in the park is at capacity**
- **Zoom wreath making for Christmas in July**

Field Permits are being issued. We have had great success with COVID Preparation plans from all permit holders



**3rd Quarter property taxes are due
August 1st with a 10 day grace period
up to and including August 10th**

Councilman Ray Guzman

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There will be a dedication of a plaque honoring Barbara Bennett on Saturday, July 25th at 11:00am at the Memorial Field House. Barbara served the Borough as Recreation Director and spent countless hours cheering on our youth sports participants prior to her passing last year. It is only fitting that the dedication take place at the same location where Barbara was happiest being with Rutherford's children.

Councilwoman Stephanie McGowan

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Rutherford Fire Department Receives Grant Money

The Rutherford Fire Department submitted a grant application under the emergency Cares Act Grant to secure funding for new personal protective equipment (PPE) and previously purchased PPE due to COVID-19. Only two of these awards were issued in New Jersey, and Rutherford received \$4,782.46.

The award was announced by Congressman Bill Pascrell, co-chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, and Congressional Representative of District 9 and Rutherford. Congratulations to the Rutherford Fire Chiefs, department members, and Borough grant writers for their outstanding work in obtaining these necessary funds to support our front line first responders!

More Council Reports on the following page

Councilman Mark Goldsack

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Finance

- **Passed Resolution 119** - This resolution authorized the award of a contract to Epic Management, LLC to act as the general contractor for the construction of the new Police Building. This contract was awarded in the amount of \$11,967,000.00.

Planning Board Meeting - July 16, 2020

- The Planning Board passed a resolution memorializing its decision from the February 20, 2020 meeting that, based on the engineering study and testimony provided, the area known as the "Holman Properties" (portions of Park Avenue, Highland Cross and Lincoln Avenue) satisfied the legal criteria to be designated as an area in need of redevelopment under the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law. That resolution will now be forwarded to the Mayor and Council who will review all available studies and additional information relevant to the matter to determine whether or not to officially designate the area in question as an area in need of redevelopment.

Council Meeting - July 20, 2020

Finance

- Ordinance Passed on 1st Reading - Adopting amendments to the Redevelopment Plan for Agnew Place, Area A - This ordinance signifies the first step in adopting the following amendments to the Agnew Place Area A Redevelopment Plan
- Increase the permitted residential density from 140 units to 185 units
- Increase the permitted height from 6 stories/72 feet to 8 stories/96 feet
- Permit no more than 45% 2-bedroom units rather than 40%
- Reduce the parking requirement from 1.5 spaces per unit to 1.3 spaces per unit
- Increase the minimum parking offset payment from \$12,500 to \$15,000

Next steps as it pertains to this ordinance and the redevelopment proceeding as a whole:

- Ordinance goes through a 2nd reading before the Mayor and Council
- If the ordinance should pass on 2nd reading a 20 day estoppel period begins. During this estoppel period the ordinance may be challenged via a legal proceeding.
- If no challenge occurs, the ordinance goes into effect after the 20 day estoppel period ends, the redevelopment plan is then officially amended.
- After the amendment goes into effect, the Borough then needs to negotiate both a Redevelopers Agreement and Financial Agreement with the potential Redeveloper before any project construction can begin.

Councilwoman Maria Begg-Roberson

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Thanking our Students and Police Department

Within the past two months, Rutherford students have planned two peaceful marches in our town that I would like to highlight.

The first event was a Black Lives Matter March on June 6th planned by Rutherford resident and college student, Jasmyne Mena. This event drew 1500 people who marched from Union School to Lincoln Park. All participants wore face masks during the entire event. The speeches encouraging unity, compassion, and an end to systemic racism were deeply powerful.

The second event was a March for Liberty and Justice on July 4th in front of Rutherford Borough Hall. This peaceful event was created by rising high school seniors. Bergen County Sheriff, Anthony Cureton, gave a unifying speech. High school students spoke publicly about their hopes for the future, and for a world where people are judged not on the "color of their skin but the content of their character."

During both events, our police department was present as a positive force. It was important to Mayor Frank Nunziato and Chief John Russo that residents and our students felt safe and supported while exercising their first amendment rights. Our police officers ensured everyone was safe while allowing residents to participate without any fear. Some police departments nationwide have been criticized for their handling of protests and marches and I am thankful for the continued support and professionalism of our own Rutherford Police Department.

Council President Tom Mullahey

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At our last meeting, we approved an amendment to a 20 year old redevelopment plan for Highland Cross. We named Linque HC Partners LLC as the redeveloper for the project. What started as a 500 unit residential complex, is now going to be home of a light industrial warehouse.

The Council also authorized the Borough to put a Referendum question on November's ballot allowing alcohol consumption licenses.

Last but not least, we authorized calling for the list of Eligible Police Captain, Lieutenant and Sergeant. We intend to act on this in November.