

The Rutherford Report



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August 13, 2021

From the Desk of Acting Mayor Mark Goldsack

This week I had the pleasure of helping to usher in one of the most important projects Rutherford has seen in years. Passing the Williams Center redevelopment plan last month paved the way for the Borough to purchase the property from Bergen County and begin the process of transferring the property to Native Center Development, whose managing partner is Chuck Olivo - a resident and Rutherford business owner.

While recently there has been a lot of boisterous conversation regarding the fate of the Williams Center, I hope we can all agree that having a dedicated Rutherfordian like Chuck controlling such an important part of our downtown is the best possible outcome for the community.

I'd like to thank Councilman Mullahey for his hard work and dedication surrounding this issue and for hosting multiple town hall meetings during his years as liaison to the Williams Center, my council colleagues who understood the complexity and urgency of this process as well as Mayor Nunziato for his valuable guidance throughout.

I'd like to also thank County Executive James Tedesco and the Bergen County Board of Commissioners for agreeing to cancel the intended auction and facilitating this process that ultimately gave Rutherford control over the fate of this important issue.

Finally, as this will be my final newsletter as Acting Mayor, I'd like to thank the residents for their support of both myself and Mayor Nunziato during this difficult time. Although under unfortunate circumstances, it has been an honor to serve Rutherford as your Mayor. I'd also like to thank my colleagues and Borough employees for their help during these past few months. I am thrilled to be able to say Mayor Nunziato's health has improved dramatically and he will be returning on August 23rd to resume Mayoral duties, and I look forward to returning to my role as Council President.

Sincerely,
- Acting Mayor Mark Goldsack

Councilman Tom Mullahey
tmullahey@rutherfordboronj.com

Williams Center Update: As you probably know, Rutherford made a great step forward this week with the temporary acquisition of the Williams Center. I look forward to turning the property over to Chuck Olivo and Native Center Development.

On Tuesday I had the pleasure of meeting with Chuck, Mayor Nunziato and Shawn Stutler to discuss the transition period. I know it's very important to the community that Center Cinema stays open and I'm happy to announce that Chuck, the Borough and Shawn are in agreement that Center Cinema will be able to remain open during redevelopment.

I'm also happy to be able to say that Chuck's goal is to be able to resume live events as soon as possible in a safe environment while this project moves forward.

I'd like to thank Acting Mayor Mark Goldsack for working with me and facilitating the conversations with Bergen County to make this a possibility. I'd like to thank County Executive Tedesco and the Bergen County Board of Commissioners for understanding the need for Rutherford to control its own destiny as well as my council colleagues who helped make this come to fruition.

It's been my pleasure to be a part of this process from the beginning and hearing the residents ideas and concerns. I wish Chuck and Native Center Development the best in the future and know that they will be an amazing asset to the community.

Rutherford Day has been moved to Sat., Oct. 2nd.

Interested in participating? [Click here](#)



Every Wednesday
with Thursday Rain Dates

New start time: 6pm-10pm

Thank you to our Aug. 11th Sponsor: 

Summer Concert Series @ Lincoln Park
Thursdays 8pm!



Wednesdays & Saturdays
Through October 30
Williams Center Plaza

Wednesdays 11:00 am - 4:30 pm
Saturdays 8:00 am - 2:00 pm



Council Reports

Councilwoman Maria Begg-Roberson

mbegg-roberson@rutherfordboronj.com

A Victory for Rutherford!

Rutherford is a gem, and I am so proud to live here! Our town has a vaudeville theater with history, charm, and beauty. I am honored to say that a collective group of elected officials, board members, country officials, residents, and developers are working together to save the Williams Center. I want to thank Chuck Olivo for his vision. Chuck is a Rutherford resident. He cares for this town and has a trustworthy track record and reputation. Research shows that the most successful businesses in a town are owned by residents that live in a town. Chuck is a sponsor of the arts and will be a wonderful steward of the Willam Carlos Williams Center.

Saving the Williams Center has taken years of advocacy, through volunteers who hosted events, board members who found creative ways to keep the theater alive and engaged residents who never stopped caring. I want to thank Acting Mayor Goldsack and my colleagues on the council for their attentive ear to the advocacy of our residents. I also am so grateful to the county for their monumental part in this. I am in deep appreciation to the Williams Center Board for the many events that they sponsored to keep the theater alive over many years. They kept the lights on through their advocacy, creativity and time. I want to thank residents for their voices and for the many stories they shared about this theater. The William Carlos Williams Center is precious to so many people. A beautiful town is built and sustained through collaboration, advocacy, and determination. This is truly an unforgettable time in the history of Rutherford.

Councilwoman Stephanie McGowan

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Thoughts on the Williams Center Purchase: This has been a long and challenging road, spanning more than 5 years. Many of us elected ran campaigns questioning how we landed at this place of uncertainty, and what could we do to play a more active role in putting Rutherford and her residents first in advocating for our community. Thank you to County Executive Jim Tedesco and the Bergen County Commissioners for supporting our position that Rutherford should be an integral part of determining its own future and allowing us to remain committed to the vision of an inclusive community where opportunities are available for all residents and the arts remain a hallmark of who we are.

Clearly this is just the beginning, but I remain hopeful that this monumental first step will lead to something incredible for our

Councilman Matthew Cokeley

mcokeley@rutherfordboronj.com

Williams Center:

I want to take a moment to thank the team members which make up the Mayor, Council and Borough Administration who worked tirelessly these last few months against an unrelenting clock to preserve a vital piece of Rutherford's community fabric.

Further, I want to thank those members of the community who reached out with ideas, solutions & coffee to better help us navigate this herculean task. Included in that gratitude are those specific community members who put their own passion in writing by crafting & presenting business proposals. Your visions and passionate pitches were invigorating when things seemed impossible.

In conclusion, this is merely the first step of many more to come. However, I feel that this monumental step was taken together, and I have never been prouder to call Rutherford my home.

Rutherford FD: The Mayor & Council would like to thank Luis M. Guzman Jr. of Engine Company No. 2 for his service and wish him well in his next endeavor.

We would also like to congratulate Fred E. Liller for his election to Captain of the Union Truck & Bucket Company #1 as well as Jason Frahm's election to Lieutenant for the balance of this year.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Rutherford Volunteer Firefighter - youth or adult - email 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 or me directly at mcokeley@rutherfordboronj.com and we can connect you with the Rutherford Food Pantry.

Borough. Special thanks to our Acting Mayor Mark Goldsack, Mayor Frank Nunziato, and Councilman Mullahey; as well as my council colleagues that supported the hard work of passing a redevelopment plan and working tirelessly to secure an entity that wants to help us realize our vision.

ABOUT TO START:

Tennis- at capacity in most levels, but some space is still available
Soccer- K- to 8th grade is open on Rec Desk space is still available!
Volunteer Coaches for Soccer are needed for every age group!
Please register on RecDesk
Opportunities for HS soccer refs will be coming out soon!
Fall Cross Country Girls 6-8th grade volleyball clinics in the Fall, registration will be opening next week
Rutherford Rocks will be opening up in September
RJF & Cheer & Rutherford FC will be starting!