

September 16, 2022

The Rutherford REPORT

rutherfordboronj.com

THE BOROUGH OF
RUTHERFORD
NEW JERSEY

On Twitter:
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Borough of Rutherford NJ

From the Desk of Mayor Frank Nunziato

I'm very excited that the 2nd Annual Rutherford Day is fast approaching. This is going to be a great community oriented event that has something for everyone. I'm really excited about it and hope to see you there.

Based on some conversations I've had with residents, I think there's some misinformation out there regarding both Rutherford Day and the Labor Day Street Fair.

Earlier this year, I considered what options we could add to Rutherford Day. Part of that research included the Borough speaking with a vendor who specializes in food truck festivals and has a proven track record for successful events. The suggestions made to enhance our event were very enticing but ultimately I decided to follow the script of last year's successful event. I will look to incorporate some of the suggestions into future Rutherford Day events. Unfortunately that vendor prematurely circulated his own promotion of Rutherford day. As a result of this, a rumor circulated that Rutherford Day is cancelled, which could not be farther from the truth.

Since I became Mayor, one of my top priorities has been to make it easier for residents to learn what's happening in town. That means we provide timely news and updates on our website and social media. Since you're reading this newsletter, you're probably already familiar with our various platforms. But if you see confusion caused by conflicting sources, please share directly from the source - Borough website or social media.

I've also heard a lot of rumor surrounding why we did not host the Labor Day Street Fair. As somebody who grew up in this town, I'm keenly aware how the Labor Day Street Fair was a highly anticipated event each year. But like you, I watched it migrate from a its original intent - a Rutherford-centric town event - to a massive, flea market style event. Each of course have their pros and cons. But as much as we'd have liked to maintain that event, the price associated with having an event of that scale have made it cost prohibitive based on the return we as a Borough receive. Which is why I have chosen to focus more on Rutherford Day, which places an emphasis community and service organizations.

Can't wait to see you there!

Sincerely,
Mayor Frank Nunziato

Street Dedication for Officer Joseph Rybka, Jr. Thursday, September 22nd at 6pm

The intersection of Ames Ave and Chestnut St
will be dedicated in memory of fallen
Bergen County Sheriff's Officer Joseph Rybka, Jr.

Sat., Sept. 24th 12-6 pm @ Memorial Field

- **Cornhole Tournament - Register with the REF**
- **Touch-A-Truck**
- **Food Trucks**
- **Beer Garden**
- **Many Community Groups with Kids' Activities**
- **Live Music by Kurt & Marty, Super TransAm with Rutherford's own James McGill & more!**
- **Free Shuttle from Felician U.'s Montross Ave Parking Lot**

Rutherford Day
9/24/2022

HEALTH

Mark your calendars for some important Health Clinics!
FREE Skin Cancer Screening

Wednesday October 5 3:30-5:30pm

Blood Screening

Saturday October 22 7:00-9:00am

Appointments Required! Call 201-460-3020 or visit

<https://www.rutherfordboronj.com/departments/health/>

TAX COLLECTOR

The 2022 certified tax rate has just been received.

Our office will be working on updating our system with 4th quarter property tax amounts due and printing and mailing bills to property owners. We expect the bills to be in the mail the first week of October.

Also, the New Jersey Division of Taxation has introduced the ANCHOR program, Affordable New Jersey Communities for Homeowners and Renters.

This replaces the HOMESTEAD BENEFIT program.

Please visit the following website to find out if you qualify:

<https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/anchor/index.shtml>

BOROUGH CLERK

Bergen County Poll Workers Needed for Election Day!

Poll workers earn \$300 on Election Day, Nov 8th.

You can apply to serve as a poll worker in New Jersey if you:

Are a United States citizen and a resident of New Jersey.

Are a registered voter in the county in which you reside.

Are not running as a candidate in this election.

Are at least 16 years of age.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

BERGEN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS at 201-336-6225 or
elections@co.bergen.nj.us

MANDATORY TRAINING CLASS PROVIDED

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Council President Mark Goldsack mgoldsack@rutherfordboronj.com

Recreation Liaison:

Fall Youth Soccer

Thank you to all the residents who stepped up to volunteer their time so that children of all age groups can participate in Rec soccer this fall.

Winter Youth Basketball

2022/23 RECREATION YOUTH BASKETBALL REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Register at <https://rutherfordnj.recdesk.com/Community/Home>

(look under PROGRAMS, drop down to BASKETBALL)

For Boy & Girls ages Kinder-8th Grade

Price: \$75.00

Starting in December 2022

Rutherford Residents only. Kinder includes 1 skill session per week.

1st-8th grade includes 1 practice and 1-2 games per week.

Practice & games may be played on a weekday or on the weekend.

Grades 3rd-8th will be expected to attend a skills evaluation.

Travel try-out information will be sent out only to those registered for Rec Basketball and will take place after registration has closed.

Registration will CLOSE on October 14, 2022.

Any registration AFTER October 14th will be placed on a wait list and will be subject to a late fee.

Recreation basketball is a volunteer-based program. All grade levels are contingent upon an appropriate amount of coaches.

WANT TO BE A VOLUNTEER COACH?

Email recstaff@rutherfordboronj.com with your name, email, cell phone and child's name and grade

Councilman Ray Guzmán rguzman@rutherfordboronj.com

Green Team Liaison:

The Green Team will host another popular **Repair Cafe** at

Lincoln Park on Saturday, October 1st. Throw It Away?

No Way! Visit www.repaircafe.org for more information.

Join the Green Team Monday, September 19th at 6pm for the Mayors Wellness Bike Ride, starting from Memorial Field.

Each ride will be a short (app. 2 mile) loop beginning and ending at the same location. Attendees should wear their Bike helmets.

Rutherford Public Library Liaison:

Mark your calendars! The Rutherford Public Library

Foundation will host its annual Gala on Saturday, March 25th, 2023

at Il Villaggio. This is always a fun way to support our public library.

Hope to see you there!

Councilman Matthew Cokeley mcokeley@rutherfordboronj.com

Arts Committee

Calling all young musicians - the Rutherford Arts Committee is excited to announce Battle of the Bands at the Williams Center on Sunday, October 23rd! Registration is now open through RecDesk until October 10th. This event will be open to middle and high school students in Rutherford and outside of Rutherford. For more information visit rutherfordboronj.com/departments/recreation/2022/09/12/battle-of-the-bands

Rutherford Fire Department

Please see the graphic on the following page of this newsletter from Fire Marshal Paul Dansbach illustrating the safety hazards and precautions that can be taken with lithium ion batteries. Fires involving these batteries are happening with more frequency throughout the country. Please take a minute to review this information - you'll be glad you did!

In the Month of August 2022, the Rutherford Fire Department responded to 68 total incidents. Included in these incidents was one structure fire located on Hackett place on August 11, 2022. There were four separate motor vehicle incidents involving injuries and entrapments on our local highways Rt 3 and Rt 17. Fire Department responded for mutual aid assistance to the Borough of North Arlington, East Rutherford and the City of Passaic fire departments last month.

In the course of August 2022, the RFD had numerous days experiencing high volume of fire incidents:

August 9 - 7 fire calls

August 11 - 6 fire calls

August 16 - 8 fire calls

August 22 - 5 fire calls

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.

Applications and requirements to be a Firefighter and Junior Firefighter are now available on the Borough website. <https://www.rutherfordboronj.com/departments/fire-department/>

Lithium Ion Battery Safety for Consumers



Lithium ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, laptops, scooters, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. Take care when using them. In rare cases, they can cause a fire or explosion.

The problem

- These batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space.
- Sometimes batteries are not used the right way; batteries not designed for a specific use can be dangerous.
- Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode.

Safety Tips

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Put batteries in the device the right way.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed or on a couch.
- Keep batteries at room temperature.
- Do not place batteries in direct sunlight or keep them in hot vehicles.
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

Signs of a Problem

Stop using the battery if you notice these problems: odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, odd noises. If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call **9-1-1**.

Battery Disposal

- Do not put lithium ion batteries in the trash.
- Recycling is always the best option.
- Take them to a battery recycling location or contact your community for disposal instructions.
- Do not put discarded batteries in piles.

High-Tech Luggage

Some major airlines no longer accept 'smart' luggage with non-removable lithium ion batteries as checked or carry-on luggage. The powerful batteries can potentially overheat and pose a fire hazard during flight.

In some instances, smart bags with removable lithium ion batteries will be allowed on board if the battery can be removed on site and taken on board with the customer. Check with your airline for restrictions.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Rutherford Volunteer Fire Department



Borough of
RUTHERFORD
Office of the Borough Administrator

Robert J. Kakoleski
Borough
Administrator

176 Park Avenue | Rutherford, NJ 07070 | 201-460-3000 x3104

September 16, 2022

Two and a half years ago, the Borough began utilizing social media as means to a better inform residents of news and updates in a consistent and timely manner.

The intent behind utilizing social media was, and is, to provide efficient and transparent messaging. The information or content we share is not generated by one single person. We compile information from our professionals, our employees, our elected officials and others to keep our residents informed. If we get something wrong, then we as an organization made the error – not one individual.

Social media naturally creates a platform for its audience to offer commentary. We of course strive to be thorough and accurate in our dissemination of information at all times. Sometimes situations arise or circumstances occur where we miss something in our reporting. Since the Borough social media accounts were opened, I'm pleased to say that the majority of commentary on our platforms has been overwhelmingly positive and civil. Occasionally when a mistake is made, the Borough is called out on it publicly, and that's okay, as long as it's done in a civil manner.

Unfortunately, some have used the Borough's social media platforms (and their own) to publicly ridicule Borough employees for errors. That is not the purpose of the Borough's social media. If you have a concern or issue with an employee, you can contact my office and we can address it. Taking to social media to publicly ridicule and embarrass any employee is unfair and quite frankly unacceptable. None of us are perfect but it seems quite often perfection is expected by those who are imperfect themselves. Most of the Borough employees are your neighbors; your friends; your children's coaches or just people trying to earn an honest living without any agendas. There is nothing wrong with holding the government accountable but let's be reasonable and fair about it. Thank you.

Robert J. Kakoleski,
Rutherford Borough Administrator