

# The Rutherford Report



The Borough of  
**RUTHERFORD**  
New Jersey

rutherfordboronj.com



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September 17, 2021

## From the Desk of Mayor Frank Nunziato

I'd like to start off by saying how proud I am of Rutherford's response to the devastating floods we experienced at the beginning of this month. There are many examples of volunteers springing into action that night, but I'd like to note one particular person that exemplified the spirit of community.

Patrick O'Keefe has been a member of the Volunteer Ambulance Corps for several years. He was a dedicated, consistent and reliable volunteer throughout COVID and the night of Wednesday, September 1st was no different. In the middle of Ida, it became clear that residents would need to be evacuated from their homes. Felician University graciously donated their shuttle bus, but we needed a driver. Without hesitation, Patrick volunteered to man a bus he had never driven before to help our residents during a very scary few hours. I'd like to commend this young man for his willingness to take on a new role at a moment's notice

Please join me on Saturday, October 2nd for Rutherford Day. My hope is it will be a day to celebrate our community, which I know has many dedicated people willing to help their neighbors, just like Patrick. Many of our local organizations have not had the opportunity to raise awareness and funds for their causes in the past year and a half. I hope you all come down to Memorial Field on October 2nd to reconnect with the community so many of us have missed for quite some time. There will be something for everyone - can't wait to see you there!

Sincerely,  
- Mayor Frank Nunziato

Classic Car Show & Beer Garden  
to Benefit the Volunteer Ambulance Corps,  
Annual Remembrance Game  
& More!

Rutherford Day   
10/2/2021

at Memorial Field

For more information [Click here](#)



2021 **MULTI-CULTURAL FESTIVAL**  
Movies, Music and Movement Series  
Presented by the Rutherford  
Civil Rights Commission  
Sept 24-25 @ Lincoln Park

## Department News

DPW

Friday September 17th is the last day Rutherford DPW will be collecting curbside storm debris from Ida.

After the 17th, please call DPW to schedule heavy trash pick-up at 201-460-3000 x4000

HEALTH

The Rutherford Health Department will sponsor a **Pap Screening Program** which includes a breast and pelvic exam and a cervical smear for a Pap Test starting at 4:30 PM on

Wednesday, October 6, 2021. Appointments are required. [Learn more here.](#)

HEALTH

The Rutherford Health Department will sponsor a **Multi-Phasic Blood Screening Program** for Rutherford residents,

18 years of age or older, to be held at the Health Center, 184 Park Avenue, Rutherford, New Jersey. The Blood Screening is scheduled for the morning hours of Saturday, October 2, 2021. Appointments are required and can be made by calling the Public Health Nurses at 201-460-3020 between the hours of 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Monday-Friday. Walk-in appointments will also be taken during the same time period. [Learn more here.](#)



**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 Stephanie McGowan

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#### Recreation Update:

-**Women's volleyball** will open registration by end of next week first come first served. Players will need to be 1. Rutherford residents or 2. Graduates of RHS or 3. Have a business in town (each team may have 5 out of towners)

#### -New programs will be launched on October

1. Youth yoga
2. Ultimate frisbee
3. Golf
4. Pound (exercise using drumsticks)

**Rutherford Rocks** will be returning with fantastic volunteer local musicians. We will also be offering musical dance and improv!

As always, please utilize RecDesk to register for all of these outstanding recreation sponsored events!

#### Special Thank You:

On September 2nd, I drove through the Borough to review the damage sustained from IDA with our PD, and later met with the Mayor to share my observations. Although I had to share the physical structural damage and water issues we experienced, I also spoke of the resilience of everyone we had talked to as they worked hard to clean up. Around high tide that night, I also went to check on my neighbors along Riverside/Jackson Ave and to assess the rising river. Each person, in their moment of exhaustion, talked about how others came to help, lent out shop vacs and carried out some of their most treasured items to the curb. Though IDA put up a fight- she will never break the spirit that makes this community an amazing place to live.

To every firefighter, police officer and EMS volunteer, who braved extraordinary weather and danger to save the lives of others during the storm, thank you for your service! I also want to give a profound shout out to our department of public works, our office of emergency management team, and every borough employee who has stepped up to ensure the safety, welfare, and support to the residents across Rutherford.

On a personal note, thank you Mayor Frank Nunziato and Councilmembers Ray Guzman & Matthew Cokeley who came to check on my husband and children while I was stranded in this storm desperately trying to get home. That's the resilience and love for this town that no storm or crisis will ever take from us. We WILL get through this and as always, please let me know what I can do to help.

### Councilman Ray Guzman

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#### Library Liaison News:

##### Saturday Hours Have Returned

School year hours have returned at Rutherford Public Library. The library is now open 10am-1pm on Saturdays. Grab & Go pickup service is available during this time as well.

##### September 11 Exhibition on Display Now

The library is hosting a special exhibit on the history of the September 11 attacks, courtesy of the 9/11 Memorial & Museum. The 14 posters contain historical context of the attacks and their impact on today's world. They will remain on display in the mezzanine classroom space through the end of the month and may be viewed any time the library is open.

##### Reminder: Unattended Children

RPL is committed to the safety of all visitors. As the school year begins, we ask that all parents and caregivers familiarize themselves with the library's Unattended Child Policy. All children under the age of 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver (age 13+) while visiting the library.

I'd like to take a moment to thank Rutherford's DPW team for an incredible job well done collecting debris from the effects of Tropical storm Ida. I personally watched this team continuously make rounds for pickup. I've even witnessed their very kind and pleasant demeanor towards residents in need of a kind ear to listen to regarding their recent hardships caused by the storm. As a Rutherford resident and DPW liaison I thank you for going above and beyond!

At the last Mayor and Council meeting, I'm happy to announce Resolution 174 accepting a gift of vintage maps of Rutherford and surrounding communities was passed. This very generous gift was presented via the Historic Preservation Committee to the Borough by Susan C. Kipp on behalf of her late husband, Walter A. Kipp, III. Most of these maps are no less than 100 years old and highlight a very young Rutherford.

The Borough will plan to have these maps on display for the public to review in the near future. On behalf of the Mayor, Council and Rutherford's residents, we thank the Kipp family for their kind and generous donation.



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### Councilman Matthew Cokeley

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**Rutherford FD:** On Wednesday, September 1, Councilman Guzman and I responded to a call by Mayor Nunziato to participate in the response to Tropical Storm Ida. Over the course of almost 8-hours I witnessed our Borough's leaders quickly and conscientiously make rapid fire decisions to assist residents and neighbors alike. It was an impressive display of professionalism and know-how.

From the opening of the Kipp center for affected persons to dropping off the last stranded local at the Rutherford Marriott at 5am, I was in awe of the efficiency and dedication on display. I would like to commend those I saw in person and who operated in the dark to help Rutherford and her neighbors.

I thank Mike Tarrantino whose work began days earlier with storm updates and prediction models. His superior knowledge and experience shone like a beacon while juggling the multiple facets of life-saving protocols, information dissemination and basic human resources. Thank you. It was a pleasure to watch you work.

To Deputy Fire Chief Thomas Twist III who, in addition to his core responsibilities, made repeated trips between the water's rising edge and the Kipp command center to deliver information updates and next step advice: Thank you.

To Assistant Chiefs Moshe Stareshefsky and Tom Riser who stood before us physically exhausted providing a final update for the night at just after 4am: Thank you.

To Fire Inspector Paul Dansbach who while on the road lost his vehicle to rising flood waters and worked his way back to town to continue aid: Thank you.

To Police Chief John Russo who toggled between his exemplary emergency & team management skills and warm compassion for those stranded at the Kipp center: Thank you.

To Detective Russ Snyder who answered Chief Russo's call for more "boots on the ground" in the middle of the night: Thank you.

To the officer in the high-water vehicle (forgive me I was not able to get your name) delivering water-logged travelers, families and pets to the Kipp center: Thank you.

To Maura DiNicola of Felician University who answered her phone after midnight and provided a Felician bus to shuttle people from the river to the Kipp center: Thank you.

To all of the EMT's on duty that night who stepped up to execute on whatever was asked of them including shuttle bus driver, thank you.

To Communications Manager, Kim Bogosian for curating important messaging as it became available from the Kipp center and delivering in a timely fashion to minimize further issues: Thank you.

To everyone else on the job that night who I missed by name: thank you.

And finally, to all of our members of the DPW who stepped up to help our friends and neighbors with cleanup after working through the previous night: Thank you.

While most of us suffered some catastrophic material losses, I hope we can all find some solace in fact that we live in a place where men and women like this work tirelessly overnight to ensure that everyone who called for or was in need of help was able to watch the sunrise the next day.

It really does take a village and I could not be prouder to be a part of this one.

### Councilwoman Maria Begg-Roberson

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#### Rutherford Civil Rights Commission Multicultural Festival

This year, the multicultural festival will be a two-day celebration of movie, music, and movement on September 24th and 25th at Lincoln Park! For more information follow the RCRC on Facebook or Instagram. We are looking forward to performances from the Kaissa, Redray Fraizer, the High School Chorus, Backstage Performing Arts Center, and many more talented guests. Come hungry to enjoy the international food trucks. Thank you to the RCRC for their incredible creativity in planning this two-day festival for residents to enjoy the beauty of the international culture in our town.

#### Rutherford Green Team

Rutherford is one of six municipalities in our area to earn a Gold Award from Safe Routes to School. Mayor Nunziato, Police Chief John Russo, our Police Department, the Rutherford Green Team and our crossing guards were presented with a certificate for Rutherford's dedication to bike and pedestrian safety. We are so grateful to our crossing guards for keeping us all safe!