

Rockaway Township Report



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www.rockawaytownship.org

Volume Two, Issue One - Fall 2013

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Mayor's Corner



This promises to be a beautiful autumn and there are so many things to do within the Township. I

trust you will enjoy this installment of the Rockaway Township quarterly newsletter.

It is my goal as Mayor to improve services for all residents, especially those that are unable to come to the Municipal Building during traditional business hours. The Township has implemented a service request available on the Township's [website](#). Residents can report issues, make suggestions and complete a customer satisfaction survey. Our staff will respond

and keep you informed about the status of your request. This is just one of the ways my administration is committed to being proactive and making Township services available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's municipal recycling tonnage grant program serves as an incentive to municipalities to increase their recycling activities and reduce the amount of material entering the solid waste stream. This year's program saw the Township recycling 66,242 tons of material. The Township's Recycling Coordinator, Al Knoth, said, "Moving to single stream recycling along with working more closely with businesses in the Township helped increase the Township's

tonnage totals." The funds generated through this program save local tax dollars and are used to improve upon recycling programs in the Township.

The Township Council has adopted and the Township staff has implemented amendments to its taxicab and limousine rules and regulations. The amendments require operators and drivers to pass a background check, have a valid driver's license, provide proof of adequate insurance, and obtain a municipal operator's license. These requirements are to ensure the safety of both taxicab and limousine patrons as well as the motoring public. My friends on the Township Council remain committed to making sure the public is safe by revising local regulations when the need arises.

Healthy News from Community Services

The Division of Health plans to continue its popular Tai Chi and Chair Yoga programs. While the Fall 2013 classes are essentially full, we will soon promote the Spring 2014 programs. Interested residents should call 973-983-2848 for more information. The Division of Health is introducing a new multi-part program, Matter of Balance, which is an educational program geared toward adults who are concerned about falls and who have limited their activity due to fear of falling. The program, which is limited to 15 registrants, will include exercises to increase strength and balance.

In other news, the Division of Health has again made application to the New Jersey Department of Health for grant-funded reimbursement for its Hepatitis B vaccination program, which is mandated by federal guidelines. To date, the Division of Health has received numerous reimbursements totaling roughly \$2,000.



The Green Pond Golf Course Athletic Fields, through a collaborative effort with the State, are undergoing a rapid transformation into a new Township resource.

Office of the Fire Marshall



In case of fire in your home, get out as quickly as you can. House fires used to burn slower because the contents were all-natural, with wood structured furniture that was filled with cotton batting and covered with natural-fiber fabric. Now our homes contain highly flammable foam stuffed furniture covered with synthetic fabric. In addition, many purchased items come covered in plastic instead of paper...and we tend to save so many things. Today, a home's

combustible load is much greater than in times past.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology has run test burns on a typical living room space with a fire started from a single source, such as a cigarette. These fires have gone to 'flashover' in less than two minutes. This means the room temperature rose to over 1100 degrees in less than two minutes, causing a complete room burn. Everything from

floor to ceiling was on fire. In case of fire, get out immediately, go to your designated and practiced meeting place and call 9-1-1.

For more information on fire safety in the home, pick up a free copy of the National Fire Protection Association's booklet, 'Fire in your Home' the next time you are in the Rockaway Township Municipal Building. You will find it in the lobby.

Important Election Dates

By Order of Governor Christie, the Special General Election for the position of U.S. Senator to fulfill the unexpired term of the late Senator Lautenberg will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 2013. The locations of the voting districts are listed at www.rockawaytownship.org. Some of the voting locations were changed due to scheduling conflicts, and the voting district locations are different than usual - so we urge you to review the list or check your sample ballot when you receive it in the mail from Morris County.

As usual, the General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5. An alphabetical listing of voting locations by street name is located on the Township website. Click on 'Departments,' then 'Clerk,' then '2013 Election Information' to find your location.

The last day to register to vote in the 2013 General Election is October 15, 2013. If you are not registered by that date, you will not be able to vote.

Vote by Mail (Absentee Voting) – Applications must be received by the County Clerk no later than seven (7) days prior to the election. You may apply in person, but no later than 3:00pm on the day prior to the election.



CALLING ALL GHOULS...

ANNUAL COSTUME CONTEST & 2ND ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20 - 5PM

DWYER SCHOOL PARKING LOT

HOTLINE 973-983-2853

CHECK WWW.ROCKAWAYTOWNSHIP.ORG FOR MORE INFO!

Employee Safety Success

The Mayor and Township Council want to recognize all of the Township employees for having no work related safety incidents for 34 days straight. Keep up the great job and let's try for 60 straight days.

Safety on the job is very important and using the right protection is crucial.

Rockaway Township has dedicated staff who think about safety while providing service to our Township.

Congratulations, Rockaway Township employees!



What's Happening

OCTOBER

- 3rd Thursday Matinee - Jack the Giant Slayer
Rockaway Township Public Library
1:30pm - 4:00pm
- 8th Making Friends with Change:
Overcome Fear and Adapt to Change in Life
Rockaway Township Public Library
7:00pm - 8:00pm
- 9th Blood Pressure Screening
Rockaway Township Municipal Building
11:00am - 11:30am
- 12th Pathways to History
Ford-Faesch House, 629 Mt. Hope Road
10:00am - 4:00pm
- 12th SAT Test Prep Workshop
Rockaway Township Public Library
10:00am - 2:00pm
- 13th Pathways to History
Ford-Faesch House, 629 Mt. Hope Road
12:00pm - 4:00pm
- 15th Flu Clinic
Rockaway Township Municipal Building
5:00pm - 7:00pm
- 17th Female Cancer Screening
Hibernia Health Center, 419 Green Pond Road
5:00pm - 7:00pm
- 17th Become an Educated Health Care Consumer
Rockaway Township Public Library
7:00pm - 8:45pm
- 17th Thursday Matinee - To Be Determined
Rockaway Township Public Library
1:30pm - 4:00pm
- 20th Halloween Trunk or Treat - Dwyer School
Call 973-983-2841 to register your vehicle
5:00pm
- 22nd Meet the Morristown Ghost - Families Welcome
Rockaway Township Public Library
7:15pm - 8:45pm
- 24th Flu Clinic
Rockaway Township Municipal Building
9:00am - 11:00am
- 28th Flu Clinic
Rockaway Township Municipal Building
5:00pm - 7:00pm

NOVEMBER

- 1st 4th Quarter Tax Bills Due
Tax Collector's Office
Rockaway Township Municipal Building
- 3rd Daylight Savings Time
Remember to turn your clock back one hour!
- 9th ACT Test Prep Workshop
Rockaway Township Public Library
10:00am - 2:00pm
- 5th Male Cancer Screening
Hibernia Health Center, 419 Green Pond Road
6:00pm - 8:00pm
- 9th Free Rabies Clinic
Rockaway Township Public Works Garage
9:00am - 12:00pm
- 13th Blood Pressure Screening
Rockaway Township Municipal Building
11:00am - 11:30am

DECEMBER

- 2nd Menorah Lighting and Chanukah Celebration
Rockaway Township Municipal Building (7:00pm)
- 2nd Santa's Mailbox Open and Available
Rockaway Township Municipal Building (outside)
Please include child's name and address
- 6th Christmas Tree Lighting and Festivities
Rockaway Township Municipal Building (6:00pm)
Bring a weatherproof ornament to place on tree!
- 7th Annual Victorian Christmas
Ford-Faesch House, 629 Mt. Hope Road
2:00pm - 4:00pm
- 11th Blood Pressure Screening
Rockaway Township Municipal Building
11:00am - 11:30am

** Pre-registration required for some Division of Health and Library events. Please call the appropriate department for information.*



Safe Generation - Construction Department



If you are planning to install either a standby or portable generator this fall, please contact the Construction Department regarding any permit requirements that maybe applicable. We wish to keep everyone safe. Please note that *all* home improvement contractors must be registered with the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs.

Visit the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs [website](#) to verify a contractor's registration. The Construction Department is here to guide and assist you in following state and municipal regulations. Should you require any assistance, please call 973-983-2809 or email construction@rockawaytownship.org.

The Township will be conducting its flu clinics in October. Please check the town website for more information!

Community Services: Notes from the Field

The Township Shade Tree Commission, working with several municipal departments, recently completed and submitted its second Community Forestry Management Plan. The Township also has prepared and submitted a grant request with the State Division of Forestry for a Community Stewardship Incentive Program. The project will help mitigate hazard trees in the Township, and if successful in the grant application, the Township expects to begin work this fall.

The Department of Community Services was pleased to assist Girl Scout Troop 259 with a special

project wherein they acquired seedlings from the State Forestry Service and helped residents replenish trees that were destroyed during Hurricane Sandy. They also worked with Picatinny Arsenal, planting some 60 trees near the Arsenal's golf course. Please see our Facebook page for a photo.

The Township is pleased to announce the acquisition of a 42 acre tract of land along the Beaver Brook, located on Meriden Road. This purchase was made possible with financial assistance from the Trust for Public Land, the Morris County

Open Space Preservation Trust, the Morris County Park Commission and the Morris County MUA.

The acquisition completes a major effort, spanning over two decades, to secure and protect public open space along the Beaver Brook stream corridor.

This area serves as headwaters to the Township's municipal water supply, and the land is also a critical trail and wildlife habitat link, comprising part of a larger linear greenway and trail system that begins in Denville and ends near Route 23 in the northern section of the Township.

Mayor's Special Recognition

Mayor Dachisen would like to recognize employees of the Township Community Services, Engineering and Public Works Departments, as well as members of the Municipal Utility, for their work in helping shepherd the Green Pond Golf Course Athletic Fields project currently under construction. Township staff has assisted with the project's design, permitting, site work, erosion control, restoration, habitat enhancement and more. In fact, the first two phases of this project were completed by skilled Rockaway Township staff, which resulted in a significant cost savings.

Mayor Dachisen also wishes to thank the numerous employees, volunteers and sponsors who

made this year's Senior Picnic a tremendous success. Once again, several hundred attendees were provided with delicious food, helpful resources, and countless prizes. This event wouldn't be possible without help and donations from many, who go far above and beyond to make this a very special event.

In addition, Mayor Dachisen wishes to recognize Rockaway Township employee Erin Murray, who recently earned a Planning Board/Zoning Board of Adjustment Secretary Certificate, and Assistant Township Administrator Patricia Seger, who earned her Qualified Purchasing Agent license. Congratulations on your professional accomplishments, Erin and Pat!

Rockaway Talks Gas

The Township recently initiated talks with New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) to inquire about bringing natural gas service to Rockaway Township. Council President Jack Quinn, Councilman Max Rogers, Rockaway staff and the Mayor met with NJNG to discuss plans on how best to meet the wishes of the residents.

January's Township newsletter will provide more information to residents on how NJNG will proceed in their efforts to provide natural gas to Rockaway.

Incentives are available to assist residents in the conversion to natural gas or to residents who need to purchase a new furnace. Programs that are available include those offered by NJNG, the NJ Clean Energy program and The SAVEGREEN Project.

Please check the NJNG [website](#) for details regarding these programs.

Library Musings

Children's Room

The Rockaway Township Library will be offering programs for ages birth through 5th grade beginning on September 16 and ending on December 6. In addition to weekly story hours, there are numerous special programs offered, including Saturday Morning Extravaganzas, A la Carte Mondays, Reading to a Dog, book clubs and Friday Night Lego programs. Registration is required for all groups - Please contact the Library at 973-627-2344.

Teens

In October, we will hold a Halloween Party with costumes, games, music and the return of the bleeding heart. Also in October, our Once Upon a Time Party will recreate Storybrooke and the places everyone visits in their daily lives - Granny's, the mayor's house, and Mr. Gold's shop. This program will include trivia contests, crafts and games.

Our mother daughter book club will continue on October 9 from 7:00pm - 8:00pm, when we will discuss *Cathy's Book* by Sean Stewart. On November 6, we will discuss *Anything But Typical* by Nora Raleigh Baskin. Our last meeting of the fall will be on December 11. The moms and daughters choose the books we will read. This program is for grades six through eight.

In November, we will offer Learn to Crochet for mothers and daughters, with weekly lessons for four weeks. Participants will learn basic stitches such as single crochet, double crochet and fringe techniques to make a scarf. Also in November, we will be celebrating the release of the movie *Catching Fire* (the 2nd in the *Hunger Games* trilogy) with programs, trivia and prizes.

In December, we will offer Crafternoons, where teens can drop in to make crafts as gifts for the holidays. Adults should check the Library [website](#) for details regarding our wonderful programs.

Police and Emergency Management

With Hurricane Season in full swing right now, we would like to remind residents of some important items that may help you withstand these events.

- Prepare an emergency plan for your home, which includes having essential items: flashlight, batteries, cell phone, chargers, generator, and any other essential items you feel you may need to get by without power for a few days.

- Register with [Nixle](#) or [Reverse 9-1-1](#) to receive emergency notifications from Rockaway Township regarding storms, road closures and other important Township news.
- Notifications will also be recorded on the OEM hotline at 973-400-6611.
- Follow the Township Facebook page, as it will contain this important information as well.

- For those residents that need special assistance, we encourage you to [register](#) with the state. This site will allow you to become part of a database that will help first responders identify your special needs during times of emergencies.
- Residents also should have a 'Go Kit' prepared, inclusive of any emergency items you and your family might need if forced to leave home hastily.

Did you know you can receive emergency notifications from Rockaway Township if you register at www.nixle.com?

Welcome Back to School

With school back in session, we encourage all drivers to slow down and obey speed laws. Remember it is the law to stop for stopped school buses and to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.

- New drivers and parents of new drivers - With graduated licenses, probationary drivers are allowed only one passenger in the vehicle at all times unless there is an adult in the vehicle or any person over the age of 21.

- Cell phones are not permitted to be used at all by probationary drivers, even in hands free mode.
- Probationary drivers are required to display the red sticker on the front and rear license plates.

Remember - driving is a privilege, so respect it by being safe and abiding by the laws. The Police Department will be aggressively enforcing speeding violations, cell phone violations, seatbelt violations, and passing

school bus violations - so please drive safely and enjoy the school year.

If you have any traffic related concerns or wish to report unsafe traffic conditions, please utilize our traffic form, which is located on the Rockaway Township Police Department [website](#) under the *traffic department* or *forms* links.

The Rockaway Township Police Department wishes you a safe and fun fall season.



Food Safety During the Holidays

No doubt about it, the holidays are turkey time. Of the 270 million turkeys produced each year in the U.S., about 25 percent are served at holiday meals. While other traditional meats are served, turkey gives rise to particular concerns for food safety. Each year an estimated 48 million Americans suffer from foodborne illness. These tips will help you prepare your holiday meal safely!

Thaw Thoughtfully

If you plan to use a fresh turkey, purchase it only one or two days before cooking. If you buy a frozen turkey, safely thaw it in one of the following ways:

- In refrigerator at 40°F, allowing approximately 24 hours defrosting time per five pounds of turkey.
- In cold water, allowing about 30 minutes defrosting time per pound of turkey.
- In microwave, if the turkey is not too large and if it is to be cooked immediately after thawing.

Combat Contamination

- Store raw meats, poultry and seafood in a manner that doesn't permit juices to drip onto other foods.
- Use one cutting board for raw meats and another for salads and other ready to eat foods, or wash/sanitize cutting boards between each use.
- Never place cooked food on a plate that previously held raw meat unless it's been washed and sanitized!

Cook Completely

- Use a food thermometer to make sure meat, poultry and other potentially hazardous foods are cooked to a safe internal temperature. Turkey should be cooked to a minimum of 165°F throughout!
- Cook eggs until the yolks and whites are firm or reach 160°F. Avoid recipes using raw or partially cooked eggs.
- When heating sauces and gravies, bring them to a quick boil.
- All hot foods should be held at 135°F to prevent bacterial growth.

Chill Out

- Make sure the temperature is 40°F or below in the refrigerator and 0°F or below in the freezer.
- Refrigerate/freeze perishables, prepared foods and leftovers within two hours.
- Divide leftovers into shallow containers for quick cooling.
- Don't overstuff the refrigerator - cold air must circulate to keep food safe.

Wash Hands & Clean Up

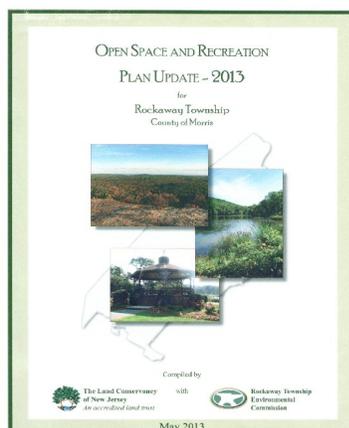
- Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds before and after handling raw products!
- Wash dishes, utensils, cutting boards and equipment with soap and hot water after each use – surfaces that appear clean may still harbor invisible bacteria that cause foodborne illness!

Call the Division of Health at 973-983-2848 or check the Township [website](#) for more food safety tips and other helpful health information!!

Planning Board Approves Open Space and Recreation Plan

The Rockaway Township Planning Board recently adopted the newly updated Municipal Open Space and Recreation Plan as an element to the Township Master Plan. The plan was prepared by The Land Conservancy of New Jersey, working cooperatively with several municipal departments, and concludes a year-long project. The Township Environmental Commission, under the leadership of Chairman Pat Matarazzo, received a \$7,500 grant from ANJEC (Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions) to prepare the document. Critical input was also re-

ceived from the Township Citizens Recreation Committee and the Township Historical Society. By way of background, Rockaway Township was the second municipality in Morris County to prepare an Open Space Plan, which was published in 1998. The hard work of the Open Space Committee at that time led to considerable open space preservation in the community in the 15 years since. Interested residents are encouraged to visit the Rockaway Township [website](#) at to see the entire plan, complete with mapping and other useful information.



Property Tax Reimbursement

The Property Tax Reimbursement Applications for tax year 2012 were mailed by the State in late February to qualified applicants. The original filing deadline of June 3, 2013 was extended to September 16, 2013.

Property Tax Reimbursement checks will be issued by the NJ Division of Taxation as quickly as possible to eligible applicants who filed after the June 3rd deadline. For more information, please call the Division of Taxation at: 1-800-882-6597.

You can pay your property taxes, sewer maintenance fee and water bill online - Visit the Township website to make payments!