

Rockaway Township Report



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www.rockawaytownship.org

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Mayor's Corner



Summer was a busy time within the Township. Our Department of Public Works

oversaw the paving of portions of Green Pond Road, along with an additional three and one half miles of Township roadways, and completed repairs of many potholes. The Department has also installed storm water drainage pipe along Crescent Ridge Road, and has cleaned culverts and catch basins throughout the Township. Public Works is now preparing for the upcoming winter season, seeing that plowing equipment is in working order and that deicing materials are available to apply on our roadways.

Leaf and brush collection takes place weekly from Wednesday through Friday. Please make sure to place bagged leaves and bundled brush curbside by 6:00am. Brush and leaves are also accepted at the McVeigh Recycling Center for Rockaway Township residents. Commercial landscapers and tree services are not permitted to dump leaves or brush at Recycling Center. Grass collection is also conducted weekly from Wednesday through Friday. Grass clippings are to be placed in lidded reusable containers curbside by 6:00am on Wednesday. There is no specific day for collection, and please be aware grass collection ends the last week of October. Residents may visit the Township's website (www.rockawaytownship.org) for more information about recycling.

With the arrival of autumn, there are many great Township events and activities for you and your family to enjoy. Please take a few moments to look through this issue of the *Rockaway Township Report* to see what might be of interest to you.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Township's newsletter, and don't forget to like us on Facebook. Please also remember to visit Rockaway Township's website for updated news and events. Check online regularly at www.rockawaytownship.org.

The autumn season also brought with it the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year, and I would like to wish all Rockaway Township students, faculty and staff a successful school year.

Mayor Michael G. Dachisen

From the Police and Fire Departments

Fire Department Update

The Rockaway Township Fire Department is constantly seeking individuals to help us in serving the residents of and visitors to the Township. If you are 18 or older, you may join us as a regular member, and if you are under 18, you may join as a junior member.

You do not need any experience to join our ranks! We provide all the training you will need to become a qualified member. You may join as an EMS member, firefighter or both. Visit www.rockawaytwpfiredept.org for more information.

Your Police Department

With winter coming, now is the time to prepare for natural disasters. Rockaway Township residents should make sure to have a plan, and that everyone your home knows the plan. For planning help, visit the Township website or the Police Department website (under *Services for*

planning information). Stay informed with regard to emergencies, emergency closures and other important Township news by subscribing to NIXLE. Go to www.nixle.com to sign u – It's easy and it's free. Speaking of web resources, the Police Department upgraded its website. Please visit at: www.rockawaytwpdpd.org/



Fire Marshal Craig Babcock teaches students fire safety.

Safety Checklist



- Remove stacks of paper and magazines – take them to recycling
- Make sure that cleaning fluids are well marked and out of reach of children and pets
- Clean work areas and remove rubbish
- Put out accumulated broken treasures on heavy trash day
- Store gasoline and propane tanks safely away from living areas
- Check your smoke detectors, CO detectors and extinguishers
- Have your furnace cleaned and serviced
- Keep the space around your furnace clear of storage items
- Make sure all doors and windows open easily for fast escapes
- Make sure your house number is visible from the road
- Have a family fire drill and meet at your outside meeting place, clear of your home
- Take time to enjoy where you live

Have questions? Call Fire Prevention at 973-983-2865 or email Fire Marshal Craig Babcock at cbfireofficial@rockawaytwfiredept.org.

Important Election Dates

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014, and polls are open from 6:00am until 8:00pm. If you are not registered to vote, the deadline to register for this election is October 14. You may obtain a voter registration application form from the Municipal Clerk's Office, the Motor Vehicle Commission, the State of New Jersey (www.nj.gov/state/elections) or the Morris County Board of Elections office (www.morriselections.org).

You are eligible to register if: You are a citizen of the United States; you are a Morris County resident 30 days prior to the election; you will be 18 years of age on or before the election date; and you are not incarcerated, on parole or on probation.

You do not need a reason to vote by mail and may utilize a mail-in ballot if you wish. Residents may apply to the County Clerk in writing up to seven days prior to the election or in person by 3:00pm on the day before the election. Applications are available at the Municipal Clerk's Office, the State of New Jersey's website or the Morris County Clerk's office. The form may be obtained



CALLING ALL GHOULS... ANNUAL COSTUME CONTEST & 2ND ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26 - 5PM-7PM

DWYER SCHOOL PARKING LOT

HOTLINE 973-983-2853

**VEHICLES MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED AT
REGISTER.COMMUNITYPASS.NET/REG**

CHECK WWW.ROCKAWAYTOWNSHIP.ORG FOR MORE INFO!

(RAIN LOCATION AT ROCKAWAY 80 GARAGE, MT. PLEASANT AVE.)

Mayor's Special Recognition

Mayor Michael Dachisen wishes to acknowledge Township employees whose actions, dedication and/or special events merit notice, and also wishes to bring public attention to dates and issues of significance to Township residents.

- Mayor Dachisen is pleased to welcome the two newest additions to Rockaway's team. Cara Sileno-Weiberth, Registered Environmental Health Specialist with the Division of Health, gave birth to Robert Otto on September 11. Corey Gardepe, Assistant Tax Collector, welcomed Angela Lynn on September 26. Best wishes to Cara and Corey on their new additions!
- The Mayor also would like to congratulate Corey Gardepe on passing the Principles of Tax Collection III certification.
- Mayor Dachisen wishes to recognize Fire Marshal Craig Babcock, who was recently recertified for a second three year term by the International Association of Arson Investigators.
- Mayor Dachisen wishes to proclaim November 2014 as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month in Rockaway Township.

What's Happening

OCTOBER

- 26th Halloween Trunk or Treat
Dwyer School, 665 Mt. Hope Road
5:00pm - 7:00pm (4:00pm for vehicles)
register.communitypass.net/reg to register
your vehicle (required)
Rain location at Rockaway 80 Garage, Mt. Pleasant Ave.
- 29th Superfoods to Improve Your Health: Education
Rockaway Township Public Library
6:30pm - 7:30pm
- 30th Flu Clinic
Rockaway Township Municipal Building
9:00am - 11:00am

NOVEMBER

- 1st 4th Quarter Tax Bills Due
Tax Collector's Office
Rockaway Township Municipal Building
- 2nd Daylight Saving Time
Remember to turn your clock back one hour!
- 8th Free Rabies Clinic
Rockaway Township Public Works Garage
9:00am - 12:00pm
- 12th Blood Pressure Screening
Rockaway Township Municipal Building
11:00am - 11:30am
- 17th Municipal Alliance Committee Meeting
Senior Center, 19 Mt. Hope Road
5:00pm - 7:00pm (all are invited)
- 20th Female Cancer Screening
Hibernia Health Center, 419 Green Pond Road
5:00pm - 7:00pm

DECEMBER

- 1st Santa's Mailbox Open and Available
Rockaway Township Municipal Building (outside)
Please include child's name and address
- 5th Christmas Tree Lighting and Festivities
Rockaway Township Municipal Building (6:00pm)
Bring a weatherproof ornament to place on tree!
- 6th Annual Victorian Christmas
Ford-Faesch House, 629 Mt. Hope Road
2:00pm - 4:00pm
- 10th Blood Pressure Screening
Rockaway Township Municipal Building
11:00am - 11:30am
- 22nd Menorah Lighting and Chanukah Celebration
Rockaway Township Municipal Building (7:00pm)

January 2015

- 1st Pet license renewal (Dog & Cat)

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



Rockaway History Trivia: Back to School, Back in the Past

As Rockaway Township students return to one of our five elementary schools or Copeland Middle School, the Rockaway Township Historical Society thought Township residents might like to know some interesting area school trivia.

- If you were a Rockaway Township student in 1890, you could be attending one of 10 schools including Rockaway, Union Hill, Rockaway Valley, Beach Glen, Lyonsville, Marcella, Mt. Hope, Upper or Lower Hibernia, or Mount Pleasant Schools. Later, there was even a Mount Hope

Avenue school for 40 years!

- One of the earliest schools paid the schoolmaster in part with firewood to keep him and his students warm in the colder months.
- Dennis B. O'Brian School was originally the middle school until the Copeland School was built.
- Catherine A. Dwyer School was initially going to be named for Astronaut Neil Armstrong in 1969, the same year as his 1969 moon walk.

Through changing student needs – from one room to many classrooms, from eight seat outhouses to indoor plumbing (one Rockaway school still had outhouses in the 1950s!), and from mysterious fires to organized fire drills – Rockaway Township schools have seen it all and have grown with the times!

For more information on this information or other Rockaway Township historical facts and trivia, please email the Historical Society at: rockawaytownshiphistory@verizon.net

Construction Department



Safe Generation

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 (DCA). Visit the DCA at www.njconsumeraffairs.gov to verify a contractor's registration.

The Construction Department is here to guide you in following state and municipal regulations. Should you require any assistance, please call 973-983-2809 or email construction@rockawaytownship.org.

Home Heating Conversion Requirements

As most residents in the White Meadow Lake section of the Township are aware, NJ Natural Gas is currently installing gas lines throughout the

Township. With natural gas coming through White Meadow Lake, we would like to advise residents that as part of this gas conversion process, permits are required for the removal/ decommissioning of their fuel oil tanks.

Per the Uniform Construction Code requirements for fuel oil storage systems that are taken out of service:

- They shall be emptied of all contents
- They shall be cleaned and rendered free of combustible vapors
- They shall be removed from the premises or property
- They shall be properly disposed of in accordance with all applicable local, state and federal regulations

Additional information regarding the removal/ decommissioning of fuel tanks may be obtained from the Construction Department at 973-983-

Fourth quarter 2014 property tax payments are due November 1, with a 10 day interest-free grace period. To submit your payment online, please visit the Rockaway Township website

Licensing Pets in Rockaway

On occasion, residents have questions regarding the provisions of Rockaway Township's dog and cat licensing program. The licensing and rabies vaccination requirements, which apply to over 4,200 companion animals in the Township, are largely based on state statute and protocol. In particular, the state's administrative code regarding dog vaccination and licensure (NJAC 8:23A-4.2) can occasionally create a bit of confusion for residents.

In accordance with New Jersey statute and Township ordinance, the duration of a pet's rabies immunity must extend through the first 10 months of the licensing year. This means that despite a license renewal date of January 1, rabies vaccinations must be good through November 1 of that licensing year. The State Department of Health (DOH), in consultation with national and international experts, developed this statutory rule decades ago, and the DOH's Infectious and Zoonotic Disease Program assures that all 565 municipalities in New Jersey comply with the rule.

Fortunately, Rockaway Township's pet owners are extremely cooperative and only about 2% of Township pets are not licensed and vaccinated by the state and local deadlines.

The National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) has confirmed that local licensing and vaccination programs have reduced rabies cases in dogs from 6,949 in 1947 to 93 in 2009. The NASPHV also has stated that the licensure of all dogs, cats and ferrets is an integral component of an effective rabies control program, and that evidence of vaccination is an essential prerequisite to licensure. In an effort to prevent rabies locally while complying with state statute, Rockaway Township officials provide numerous opportunities for residents to meet these licensing requirements. Residents are sent license renewal materials by mail every December and are issued a minimum of two written reminders before the end of February during the following licensing period. In addition, residents whose pets are due

for rabies vaccination are issued personalized postcards inviting them to the Township's semiannual free rabies clinics. If a resident fails to relicense their pet, Township Ordinance Section 9-3.1 imposes a \$5 late fee for each month or portion of a month the license is overdue. If a resident has not properly relicensed their pet by March 1, summonses may be issued in accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:23A; however, the Township's Animal Control Officer generally does not issue summonses until May of the licensing year or later.

The licensure of Rockaway Township's dogs and cats aids efforts beyond rabies control. Due to Rockaway's licensing program, animal control officers have the ability to identify any registered dog or cat by their tags and/or licensing information, and may be of service to distressed animals and their owners. When a pet is lost, found at large, or has been involved in a bite incident, a dog or cat license provides Rockaway Township with the means to assure the safety and well-being of our residents and their pets.



Community Services: Fun at the Senior Picnic

Over 300 seniors attended the Senior Citizen Picnic in September at Craigmear Recreation Complex. Mayor Michael Dachisen addressed the seniors and distributed many gifts, which were generously donated by Rockaway Township businesses. Thanks to everyone who attended, donated gifts for our seniors and worked the event. We hope to see you all next year!



Fighting Substance Abuse: MAC and the RTSAA

Alliance Receives Drug-Free Grant

The Rockaway Township Substance Abuse Alliance (RTSAA) is proud to announce the Alliance is a recipient of the 2014 *Drug-Free Communities Grant*, which was announced by The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy on September 19.

This acknowledgement will allow the RTSAA to not only continue its efforts in sending a powerful message to our students about the dangers of getting involved with drugs, alcohol and tobacco, but will allow the message to

be expanded to surrounding communities as well.

The RTSAA, which was started in 1998 by a group of volunteers to help our children make positive choices before entering high school, continues to be an alliance of volunteers. For more information about the RTSAA, please visit www.rtsaa.org.

Municipal Alliance Committee Seeks Community Volunteers

The Rockaway Township Municipal Alliance Committee (MAC) is a

community-based coalition comprised of local organizations and individuals who develop and implement substance abuse prevention programs in our community. MAC is funded by the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, state and county grants, fundraising, and most importantly, *you*.

MAC meets in the Township Senior Building. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Please call 973-983-2848 for visit our web-site at <http://www.rockawaytownship.org/MAC.cfm> for more information.

Cooperative Curbside Collection & Snow Removal

Leaf and Brush Collection

Leaves and brush are collected weekly from Wednesday through Friday. There is no specific day for collection, and items should be placed at the curb by 6:00am on Wednesdays. Leaves must be placed in biodegradable paper bags or reusable containers only - neither plastic nor plastic biodegradable bags are accepted. Brush must be placed curbside and bundled/tied in four foot lengths. No stumps or branches over six inches in diameter will be collected. Brush and leaves are also accepted from Rockaway Township Residents at the McVeigh Recycling Center. Commercial landscapers, tree services and dump trucks may *not* dump leaves or brush at the recycling center.

Grass Collection

Clipped grass will be collected weekly from Wednesday through Friday. All grass must be placed at the curb by 6:00am on Wednesdays. There is no specific date for collection. Please note: *Grass collection ends the last week of October*. Residents are also advised they may *not* place or blow loose leaves or brush into roadways. Leaves and brush must be bagged and/or bundled. For proper procedures regarding all curbside collection, refer to the Township website, *The Town Planner* or the 2014 Township recycling brochure (available on the Township website under *Recycling*).

Inclement Weather/Holiday Recycling Collection

Should recycling collection be canceled due

to inclement weather, your recyclables will be collected the next scheduled pick up day. Recycling cancellations will be posted on the Rockaway Township Facebook page and on the Township website. *There is no make-up day* when a route is canceled due to inclement weather. However, if your collection day falls on a holiday, there is *always* a make-up day. Please refer to the 2014 Township recycling brochure to see the dates of the collections. Please be advised that even if your designated collection day is Friday, for example, the make-up day will be whatever day of the week is indicated under the dates section on the recycling calendar).

Grass – Cut it and Leave it

Grass Clippings are a major part of New Jersey's municipal solid waste stream. Like other highly recyclable materials – such as aluminum and steel cans, glass bottles and jars, paper and certain plastic bottles – recycling grass clippings helps reduce the amount of waste being collected for disposal. As a New Jersey resident, you are already reducing the amount of waste by recycling a variety of materials. You can also easily recycle the clippings generated each time you mow your lawn, and can save time and money by doing so.

So what can you do to help? It's very simple – just leave the clippings on the lawn when you mow. Grass clippings provide a natural and healthy fertilizer for a growing lawn. For more information, see the recycling section of the Township website at www.rockawaytownship.org.

Snow & Ice Removal Tips

With winter fast approaching, here are some tips to avoid snowplowing rage!

- Park cars off the street
- Don't shovel driveways out to the street until plowing is complete
- Don't shovel driveway snow onto the street – This is a violation of Township Ordinances and creates a hazard
- Don't shovel sidewalks onto street – this is also a violation of Township Ordinances and creates a hazard
- Per Township Ordinance, residents have 24 hours to remove snow from sidewalks in front of their home
- If you wish to file a claim for damage to your vehicle caused by the use of Township equipment, you must have a police report

Avoid towing and impound charges: Township Ordinance 7-6.3(a,b) imposes temporary parking prohibition when snow has fallen and accumulated, at which point an emergency shall be declared until the snow has ceased and the streets have been plowed sufficiently. Any unoccupied vehicles may be towed and impounded at the owner's expense. Please cooperate with plow crews by parking off the roads until plowing is complete. This will ensure safe, clean streets.

To report an ice condition, call 973-983-2891. To report a snow or ice related emergency off hours, please contact the Rockaway Township Police Department at

Trick or Treating Tips

S - Swords, knives and similar accessories should be short, soft and flexible.

A - Avoid trick-or-treating alone – walk in groups or with a trusted adult.

F - Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see you.

E - Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them. Limit the amount of treats you eat.

H - Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and to help others see you. Always *walk* and don't run from house to house.

A - Always test make-up in a small area first. Remove it before bedtime to prevent possible skin and eye irritation.

L - Look both ways before crossing the street. Use established crosswalks wherever possible.

L - Lower your risk for serious eye injury by not wearing decorative contact lenses.

O - Only walk on sidewalks whenever possible, or on the far edge of the road facing traffic, to stay safe.

W - Wear well-fitting masks, costumes and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips and falls.

E - Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating homemade treats made by strangers.

E - Enter homes only if you're with a trusted adult. Only visit well-lit houses. Don't stop at dark houses and never accept rides from strangers.

N - Never walk near lit candles or luminaries. Be sure to wear flame-resistant costumes.

For more information, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/family/halloween/>.