



Rockaway Township

65 Mount Hope Road Rockaway, NJ 07866 www.rockawaytownship.org (973)627-7200

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 1, 2013

Mayor's Corner



Welcome to Rockaway Township's first edition of our quarterly newsletter. Publications will be April, July, October and January.

Communication and being pro-active are very important aspects of my administration. This newsletter in addition to our new web-site and facebook page, is meeting the challenge of keeping the public informed and involved.

The New Good Neighbor Awards, hosted by the New Jersey Business & Industry Association and New Jersey Business magazine, annually recognize the best and most exciting commercial and industrial development projects in the State of New Jersey. Winners are chosen based on economic benefit and job creation, architectural merit, and community involvement. Rockaway Township is pleased to announce that our community had two winners; Rockaway River Barn and Tilcon. Congratulations to both of these community based businesses.

Rockaway Township is a great community and I am honored to be your Mayor. I hope you enjoy the newsletter and find it helpful. Please remember to sign up for emergency notices by going to our web-site at www.rockawaytownship.org.

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What's Happening?

Fishing Contest – Mt. Hope Pond Scout Cabin & Hibernia Firehouse – Hibernia Brook

Saturday April 6, 2013 8:00 am start

Opening Day Softball and Baseball Parade –

Fleetwood Drive / Peterson Field

Saturday April 13, 2013 10:00 am start



Hooked On Fishing, NOT Drugs - Mt. Hope Pond, Rockaway

Saturday, May 18, 2013 8 am - 11 am

Memorial Day Parade – Fleetwood Drive / Gazebo Mt. Hope Road

Monday May 27, 2013 11:30 am start

Summer Playground – Dwyer/ KDM/ Birchwood - 7/1/13 – 8/9/13

Fourth of July at the Faesch House – Mount Hope Road - 4/4/13

Gazebo Concert Series – Park Lake Gazebo - 7/7/13-8/25/13

Blood pressure screening - 11:00am - 11:30am

April 10th / May 8th / June 12th / July 10th / August 14th

Rockaway Township Municipal Building

Lyme disease educational program-7:30pm - 8:30pm

Thursday, April 18th

Rockaway Township Municipal Building,

Oral cancer screening- 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Wednesday, April 24th

Hibernia Health Center, 419 Green Pond Road

Stroke Prevention Program - 1:30-pm -2:30 pm

Monday, May 13th

Rockaway Township Municipal Building

Dealing with dementia educational program -7:30pm - 8:30pm

Tuesday May 21st

Rockaway Township Municipal Building

Tax Collection Office



PROPERTY TAX BILL

Please be reminded that the 2nd quarter 2013 property tax payment is due on May 1st, 2013 with a grace period of 10 days. For your convenience, a payment drop box is located at the front of the municipal building, or you can make your payment online at:

www.rockawaytownship.org



ONLINE PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS

Did you know that Rockaway Township gives you the option to pay your property tax bill, sewer maintenance bill and water bill online? You can make payments by visiting our township's website at: www.rockawaytownship.org



PROPERTY TAX REIMBURSEMENT APPLICATIONS

The Property Tax Reimbursement Applications for tax year 2012 have been mailed by the State in late February to all. Please review your booklet for eligibility and qualifications. Make sure to file your application by June 1, 2013. If you did not receive your application or if you need more information please call the N.J. State at: 1-800-882-6597.

Engineering Department

Rockaway Township Senior Center

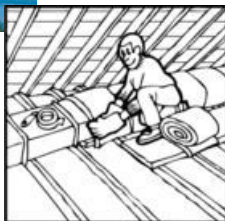


Rockaway Township received funds through a Morris County Community Development Block Grant for the rehabilitation of the Senior Citizen Center located on Mt. Hope Road. The improvements consisted of a new front entrance, handicap ramps, walkways, curbing and paving in the front parking lot. Construction started in the fall and will be completed in the spring.

NJDOT Grant—Lake Denmark Road

Rockaway Township received a NJDOT Municipal Aid Grant to improve the condition of a portion of Lake Denmark Road with pavement repair and drainage improvements. This is a primary access road for Picatinny Arsenal and services a large number of picnic areas and shared ball fields for the residents of the Township. This work is scheduled to begin this fall.

Construction—Spring Projects Guidance



If you are thinking of renovating your bathroom or kitchen, building a deck, putting up a new fence or swimming pool, building an addition or any other home improvement, you will need to know which permits are required. Please check our website at www.rockawaytownship.org or call the Building Division at 973-983-2809 to verify permit requirements for all of your future

projects.

If you are planning to install an inflatable/temporary pool to keep cool this summer please contact the Building Division regarding any permit requirements that may be applicable. We want to keep everyone safe.

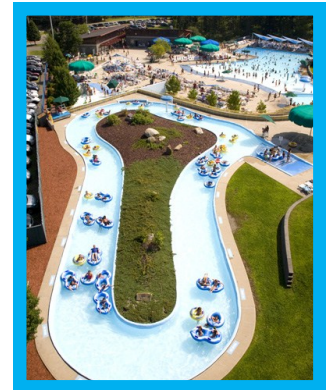
All home improvements con-

tractors must be registered with the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs. Please visit their website www.njconsumeraffairs.gov to verify a contractor's registration.

We are here to guide and assist you in following the state regulations and town ordinances.

Community Service—Recreation & Parks

- ◆ The Township is pleased to announce that the State of New Jersey DEP, Division of Fish and Wildlife signed an agreement that will allow the Town to construct two new athletic fields along the road frontage of the former Green Pond Golf Course. The State acquired the land in 2006 and subsequently the Township had proposed an idea to keep the golf course open as a recreation resource. At that time, a partnership was formed with the YMCA and plans were to create a Youth and Senior Golf Program. Unfortunately after more than two years of effort, we were not able to coordinate all the necessary resources to implement that plan. The Township was still eager to utilize a portion of the site for recreational purposes and began working on an agreement with Fish & Wildlife. This agreement will allow the construction of two rectangular athletic fields and some expanded parking in exchange for the Town constructing and maintaining a walking path throughout the rest of the property. The Town is also working with one of the State Wildlife Biologists to restore the rest of the former fairways to a natural New Jersey habitat. In an effort to save funds, the Township workforce will be performing as much work as possible before bidding the remainder of the job, which is expected to take place this spring.
- ◆ Memberships are still available for Frog Falls Aquatic Park located at Picatinny Arsenal. Please visit our website for registration forms and details at www.rockawaytownship.org. Frog Falls will open its doors on Saturday, May 25th (Memorial Day weekend) from 11:00am – 7:00pm and during the week from 3:30pm – 7:00pm. Beginning Saturday, June 15 they will be open daily from 11:00am - 7:00pm.
- ◆ The purchase of Beach Tags for Mount Hope Pond will begin on Wednesday, May 1, 2013. The Registration Forms and Beach Rules will be posted on the website on Monday, April 29, 2013. Mt. Hope Beach will open on Saturday, May 25th (Memorial Day weekend). The beach will be open on weekends only, until school has closed for summer recess.



Open Space and Recreation Draft Plan

The Rockaway Township Environmental Commission received a grant in 2012 from ANJEC Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, to revise the Municipal Open Space Master Plan which was originally adopted in 1998. The matching fund grant allowed for the Town to hire The Land Conservancy of New Jersey, a non-profit land preservation foundation, to complete the work. The Conservancy is nearing the completion of the project, which not only updates a decade and a half of municipal land preservation efforts but will add a recreation and historic preservation element. The Township Planning Board will be reviewing the document along with the Township Council and a final draft is expected to be published in April or May. If anyone is interested in learning more, you can visit the Township website at www.rockawaytownship.org and find the draft document. Questions can be directed to the Environmental Commission or the Land Conservancy of New Jersey.

The Township's Remarkable History

Rockaway Township has a remarkable mining history dating back even before the American Revolution, when iron mining was new to the American Colonies. Most notably is the Ford Faesch Ironmaster's House circa 1768, located in the Mount Hope section of the community. The Township is pleased to work cooperatively with the Historical Society of Rockaway Township on preservation of the House as well as other programs and other fascinating historical aspects of the Township. With significant grant funds from the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust, the house has seen several restoration projects, the most recent, Phase III Exterior Restoration Project concluding this spring. The Historical Society and the Township promote history and any interested residents are encouraged to become a member of the Society and participate in the many events and programs planned throughout the year. Recently, some members of the Society provided a history program for a local Cub Scout Pack at the Hibernia Library, a recently restored historic structure dating back to 1869. For more information on the Historic Society, please contact the Department of Community Services at 973-983-2841 or 2848.



Department of Public Works ~ Recycling

Rockaway Township Recycling and Public Works employees collected 8,763 cubic yards of vegetative debris from Hurricane Sandy.



In this picture the processed pile of storm debris is 6,314 cubic yards. The chips will be utilized as a cover for the walking path at Egberts Lake and other various walking paths around the Township.

Leaf and Brush Collection will resume April – December weekly Wednesday – Friday. Place at curb by 6:00 a.m. Wednesday, **there is no specific day for collection.**

Grass Collection will resume April – October weekly Wednesday – Friday. Place at curb by 6:00 a.m. Wednesday, **there is no specific day for collection.**

There is no curbside collection of brush, leaves or grass during the weeks of Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

For proper collection procedures refer to www.rockawaytownship.org, The Town Planner, or the 2013 Recycling Brochure (available on the Township Website under Recycling).

Inclement Weather / Holiday Recycling Collection Procedure: Should your Recycling Collection be canceled due to inclement weather your recycling will be collected on the next scheduled pick up day. We will post cancellations of Recycling Pick Up on the Rockaway Township Facebook Page as well as the Township Website. **There is no make-up day** when the 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 2013 Recycling Brochure to see the dates of the collections (*note – even though your designated day may say Fridays, for example, the make-up day will be whatever day of the week that is listed 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. And 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 to be landfilled by recycling a variety of materials. You can also easily recycle the clippings generated each time you mow your lawn – and save time and money by doing so.

What Can You Do to Help? It’s really 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

Spring Reminders

Tick...Tick...Time to Protect Yourself Against Lyme Disease



As the time approaches to pull out spring wardrobes and refuel sleepy lawnmowers, Rockaway Township residents are reminded to protect themselves against tick bites. For more information please go to <http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/>.

What are the signs and symptoms of Lyme disease?

Lyme disease is often difficult to diagnose because it has numerous symptoms. The most common early symptoms of Lyme disease include a rash that resembles a bull’s eye (*erythema migrans*), fever, headache, fatigue and muscle/joint pain. If not promptly treated, other progressive symptoms may develop in some patients. Early detection of Lyme disease and prompt antibiotic treatment is critical and usually prevents more severe health problems.



Wildlife and Litter: Something to Bear in Mind...

Due to the presence of wildlife and Rockaway’s significant amount of preserved open space, the Division of Health periodically receives calls regarding bears and other animals getting into residential garbage. Household garbage, especially that containing food waste, is attractive to wildlife and is often easily obtainable. Black bears, in particular, will eat a wide variety of items including human food, garbage, pet food and birdseed. Given a bear’s potential to cause property damage and provide a nuisance to residents, it is important to place garbage and other refuse in suitable receptacles with tight fitting lids. In addition, receptacles should not be kept at curbside for longer than 24 hours. For more information visit: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/bearfacts.htm>

