

# Rockaway Township Report



65 Mt. Hope Road  
Rockaway, NJ 07866  
973-627-7200

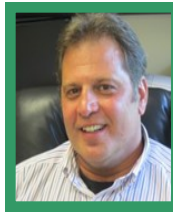
[www.rockawaytownship.org](http://www.rockawaytownship.org)

Volume Three, Issue

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## Mayor's Corner



I have received many calls and had lots of conversations about the recent letter sent to

Township residents by Tax Assessor, Mark Burek. Mr. Burek's letter, dated March 5, 2014, informs residents about property inspections to be performed by Realty Appraisal Company.

The purpose of these inspections is not to increase your property taxes but to keep the Township's property values – your property values – current with existing market conditions. Typically, the Township would value property once every 10 years or so. This creates a problem between residential and commercial property values as those markets change at different rates.

The difference between the residential and commercial property values has allowed commercial property owners to file and win large tax appeal refunds. These tax court-ordered refunds must then be paid for by the municipality with your property tax dollars. Over the past 10 years, the Township has paid out millions of dollars to settle these large commercial tax appeals.

This is why the Township is working with Realty Appraisal

Company to keep Township property tax values as close to market value as possible to limit the exposure to large commercial tax appeals. Thank you for your cooperation as the Township goes through this process. If you have any concerns, you can reach Mr. Burek at 973-983-2819.

The Township Council is in the process of adopting the 2014 municipal budget. The Administration prepares recommendations in the form of a draft document, and the Township Council determines the needs and interests of the community by public hearing and adoption of the municipal budget.

The introduced 2014 budget calls for appropriations of \$38,415,822.00 This represents a 2.0% increase or \$761,142.00 from the adopted 2013 budget. Significant dollar increases are seen in the following appropriations: insurance, legal services, and public safety salaries.

The expense side of the budget is assigned by department and divided within each department into "Salary and Wages" and "Other Expenses." These expenditures are presented in a line-item budget format. Appropriations are the mechanism that allows local government to deliver services to its taxpayers.

For the fifth year in a row, Department Heads were directed to prepare the "Other Expense" portion of their budget with no increase from the adopted 2013 budget. This resulted in four of the eight "Other Expense" subaccounts either being flat or reduced as compared to the previous year. One additional "Other Expense" subaccount increased only as a result of certain "Salaries and Wages" being reclassified as "Other Expense."

Staffing costs comprise approximately 60% of the total budget. Salary and wages in this budget total \$13,071,689. This represents an increase of 0.6% or \$76,140 over 2013 salary and wages. The increase in salaries and wages was limited by eliminating salaried positions in favor of contracted services. The salary increment for the White and Blue Collar employees is unknown at this time, as the Township's agreements with those Bargaining Units are being negotiated.

This year's budget maintains a prudent level of surplus so as to avoid potential spikes in future tax rates. The 2014 municipal budget, as presented, limits impacts to current service levels in a difficult operating environment. These services are being preserved as best as can be in accordance with residents' expectations and contribute to the quality of life for all taxpayers in Rockaway Township.

Remember to check [www.rockawaytownship.org](http://www.rockawaytownship.org) for updates and information on programs!



## Fire Marshal: Barbecue Grill Safety

The National Fire Prevention Association's last report on fires involving gas or charcoal grills states that in one year they caused over 6,100 home fires, \$29.1 million of property damage, over 20,000 emergency room visits and an unknown number of domestic disputes. The majority of these fires were caused by neglect of common sense precautions. Some were the result of barbecuing next to a house or under a porch. Others were the direct result of testing for leaks with a match or lighter. Some were the result of using gasoline as starter fluid and others were a result of squirting or pouring flammable liquid directly onto the fire, or the placement of said fluid in close proximity to an already burning fire.

The New Jersey Uniform Fire Code requires that barbecue grills be at least five feet from a structure. Gas barbecues should be tested for leaks

with a soap solution before being used. Tighten or replace hoses or fittings as needed. Gas cylinders have left-hand threads, requiring counterclockwise turning to tighten. Only properly labeled starter fluid should be used with charcoal and never gasoline, as it is an explosive and leaves a terrible after taste. Never barbecue under a window, as a byproduct of open fires is carbon monoxide.

The Rockaway Township Fire Department hopes that you will enjoy the benefits of safe outdoor cooking and that if it must rain, it does so only after you have finished the marshmallows and turned off the gas.

Have questions? For answers to your fire safety questions, email Fire Marshal Craig Babcock at [cbfireofficial@rockawaytwfiredept.org](mailto:cbfireofficial@rockawaytwfiredept.org).



## Your Fire Department

The Rockaway Township Fire Department is in its 79<sup>th</sup> year of operation. The Department started in 1935 with only two companies – one in Hibernia and the other in Mount Hope. Today, the Fire Department has five fire companies and 131 members, all of whom volunteer their time to help the residents of our community.

During daytime hours, Rockaway Township contracts with St. Clare's Hospital to provide emergency medical services (EMS) because of a lack of manpower to provide coverage during the day.

Our call volume is increasing but membership is declining, so we need a few more volunteers to join and help us. You can join

either the EMS or Fire Division and you don't need to have any background in public safety. All training is provided to you at no cost. Please help us to continue providing excellent medical care, fire prevention and suppression to the community by calling 973-983-2865 and asking for an application. Learn more at our website:

[www.rockawaytwfiredept.org](http://www.rockawaytwfiredept.org)

## Engineering & Zoning

### Stormwater Pollution Prevention

Before washing your car or fertilizing your lawn this spring, please be mindful of storm water pollution. Whatever we put on the ground or into the storm drain may end up in our natural waters, and each of us has a responsibility to make sure these contaminants stay out of our water. For additional information on storm water and the prevention of pollution, visit [www.cleanwater.nj.org/ed.html](http://www.cleanwater.nj.org/ed.html). Whether we have clean water or not is up to you!

### Zoning Review Requirements

If you are planning to construct a shed, deck or addition to your home this spring, be advised these types of projects require a zoning review prior to obtaining a building permit. If you have any questions on the zoning requirements, please contact the Zoning Department at 973-983-2814.

## Obtaining Vital Records

Vital statistics records (i.e., birth, marriage and death records) are maintained on file in the municipality where the event took place. If such records are obtained in Rockaway Township, there is \$10.00 fee per certified copy. You must produce a photo ID for proof of identity. You must also produce copies of documents proving your relationship to the person named on the record. The following are acceptable forms of ID: A current, valid photo driver's license or photo non-driver's license with current address OR a current, valid driver's license without photo and one alternate form of ID with current address OR two alternate forms of ID, one of which must have current address.

For further information or to print an application for a certified copy, please visit the [State's website](http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/LVinfo.htm) at <http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/LVinfo.htm>

## What's Happening

### APRIL

- 12<sup>th</sup> Easter Festival  
Copeland Middle School Gym  
10:00am
- 26<sup>th</sup> Park Lake Community Clean Up  
Park Lake Gazebo  
9:00am - 11:00am

### MAY

- 6<sup>th</sup> Male Cancer Screening  
Rockaway Health Center, 419 Green Pond Road  
4:45pm - 6:00pm
- 14<sup>th</sup> Blood Pressure Screening  
Rockaway Township Municipal Building  
11:00am - 11:30am
- 19<sup>th</sup> Blood Chemistry Screening  
Rockaway Township Municipal Building  
8:45am - 10:45am

- 26<sup>th</sup> Rockaway/Denville Memorial Day Parade  
Check [www.rockawaytownship.org](http://www.rockawaytownship.org) for details

### JUNE

- 11<sup>th</sup> Blood Pressure Screening  
Rockaway Township Municipal Building  
11:00am - 11:30am

### JULY

- 6<sup>th</sup> Summer Concert Series begins at Park Lake  
Rockaway Gazebo  
3:00—5:00 pm
- 13<sup>th</sup> Summer Concert Series at Park Lake  
Rockaway Gazebo  
3:00—5:00 pm

*\* Pre-registration required for some events. Please call the appropriate department for information or to register.*

## Update from Your Library

Facing its fourth straight year of declining budgets, the Rockaway Township Free Public Library sought help in identifying solutions from both its staff and the public. After a joint effort that involved Morris Council 6 (who represent the library staff union), the director, staff and the board of trustees, we reached an agreement that will allow the library to continue functioning in spite of the budget shortfall. This shortfall is due to the continued declining equalized valuation of Township properties.

Library funding is based on a formula applied to the Township's [equalized valuations](#) calculated by the State's Treasury Department. Due to decreasing equalized valuation the Library's budget was reduced by nearly \$34,000 in 2014 and had been reduced by roughly \$87,000 in 2013 for a total reduction of over \$317,000 since 2010. In addition to the furloughs and cuts in hours of operations, the Library had identified over \$125,000 in savings for 2014 by eliminating unnecessary consulting, implementing Green Initiatives, as well as implementing other operational efficiencies.

"We have tried to be very cognizant of how our decisions to absorb this year's deficit will impact both the public and the staff," said the Library's new director, Scott Davan. "We've worked very diligently with the staff and public to identify and implement solutions that will lessen any potential inconvenience to our library users and minimize impact to the staff."

As a result, the Library and its staff have agreed to the following:

- Staff will furlough 10 days over the course of the year. The staff will be required to take these days off without pay.

- The library will be closed on Sundays for the remainder of the year starting on March 30<sup>th</sup> (we hope to resume Sunday hours in 2015 depending on budget).
- The library will reduce hours on summer Saturdays, opening from 9am-1pm instead of 9:00am-5:00pm from June 28 – August 23. The Library will resume full Saturday hours on September 6.
- Effective June 2, the main library's hours of operations for weekdays will change from Monday to Friday, 9:00am-9:00pm, to the following:
  - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 9am-8pm
  - Thursday: 9am-5pm
  - Reductions in operational hours of the Hibernia Branch Library are being considered

"Furloughing the staff is not something our Board of Trustees takes lightly, and they understand that it affects our employees and the community we serve," said Amy Bogatch, Library Board President. "The Library had to furlough staff last year and regrets having to continue furloughing this year; however this is an unfortunate consequence of our budget reductions. We recognize there will be a decrease in the quantity of days we are open to the public, but I want to assure everyone that there'll be no decrease in the *quality* of services we provide."

For more information, please call the Scott Davan, the director of the Rockaway Township Free Public Library at 973-627-2344.

## Your Municipal Court

Municipal Court is an independent entity which is governed by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Established in 1948, the court prides itself for its *independence, integrity, fairness and quality service*.

The most common question asked of the Court is concerning tickets issued by the various agencies in the municipality and other state and county agencies. The majority of the tickets issued are generated by the Police Department. So what do you do if you receive a ticket? There are two types of traffic tickets issued – parking and moving violations. If you wish to contest a ticket, you need to contact the Court and we will gladly help. If you wish to pay, there are several ways to do so. You can pay through the mail by check or money order; you can pay at the Violation Bureau, located in the Municipal Building; or you may

pay through the state website, [www.njmcdirect.com](http://www.njmcdirect.com). If you have any questions concerning tickets, you may call the Court during business hours (8:30am – 4:30pm M-F) at 983-627-9000.

The Court accepts for filing of all complaints by citizens. When processed, the complaint *may* be referred to the County Prosecutor, may be heard in Municipal Court or may be heard by the CDRC (Community Dispute Resolution Committee). If you would like more information regarding the CDRC, please call the Court and we will send you this information.

We welcome you to observe during any Court sessions, which are held on Wednesdays (except the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday) at 1:00pm and Thursdays at 3:00pm.



## Reassessment Inspections

As part of being more proactive in the valuation of property, the Township must comply with the State and the Division of Taxation requirements. The Division of Taxation requires that a municipality inspects 25 percent of its line items each year. The Township of Rockaway is comprised of approximately 10,000 properties, and based upon the State's requirements, approximately 2,500 properties need to be inspected annually. This will allow the Township to

implement a reassessment program when the markets change instead of waiting to be ordered by the County Tax Board and the State Division of Taxation to complete a revaluation. Letters will be sent out in advance to the areas selected to be inspected.

The Township has engaged the firm of Realty Appraisal Company to assist the Tax Assessment office in completing the necessary inspections. A representative of the firm will be visiting properties to

check the accuracy of the current property record card.

This program will require exterior as well as interior inspections of each property. The representative will have identification that must be produced. Your cooperation in this process would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please feel free to contact the Tax Assessor's office at 973-983-2819.

## Tips from the Tax Collector

### Property Tax Reimbursement - Senior Freeze

The State of New Jersey's Division of Taxation has announced that the 2013 Property Tax Reimbursement applications are in the process of being mailed to qualified applicants. Completed applications are due by June 2, 2014.

If you have any questions regarding qualifications and applications, please call the Division of Taxation at 1-800-882-6597. Information is also available on the Division's Website at: [www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ptr/buffer.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ptr/buffer.shtml)

### Reminders from the Tax Office

Second quarter property tax payments are due on May 1, 2014. Please visit the Rockaway Township website to submit your payment online.

If you wish to subscribe to the Tax Office email list, go to [www.rockawaytownship.org](http://www.rockawaytownship.org) and click on [Subscriptions](#). By subscribing, you will receive quarterly reminders of your property tax due dates and notifications of any updates from the State of New Jersey on property tax relief programs. You may also sign up to receive the Township's quarterly newsletter and other department updates.

## Getting Married?

Residents wishing to obtain a marriage, domestic partnership or civil union license must apply in the town where either applicant resides. Rockaway Township's hours are 8:30am to 4:00pm, Monday thru Friday. The license is *only* valid for use in the State of New Jersey. The applicants and one witness must appear together before the Certified Municipal Registrar when applying for the license. If it is inconvenient for both of the applicants to appear at the same time, each may come separately but with the *same* witness.

Applicants must know the date of marriage and the officiant's name and address when applying. Applicants must also bring a certified copy of their birth certificate or passport. The applicants must have ID containing their *current legal address*, such as a driver's license, lease agreement or tax return. If this is not an applicant's first marriage, the Clerk's Office must see divorce papers or a death certificate. In addition, both applicants must know their parents places of birth.

State Law requires a 72 hour waiting period from the time you apply before you may pick up your License. The fee for a marriage license is \$28. Residents with any questions should call the Township Clerk's office at 973-983-2834.



## News from the Police Department

### Police Department Reaccredited

The Rockaway Township Police Department is pleased to announce that the Department has recently been recommended for reaccreditation through the New Jersey State Chiefs Association Accreditation program. The Department had to demonstrate compliance and practice in over 112 standards of best practice in law enforcement policy, procedures and operations. The onsite review is completed by state assessors who review all policies, conduct interviews with staff, observe daily performance and also include a phone-in session with the public for input. The Police Department received its original accreditation in November 2010, and in order to maintain the three year distinction, it must submit compliance reports.

### NIXLE Use Expanded

The Police Department is planning to increase its use of NIXLE to advise residents of happenings in the Township. A recent upgrade to NIXLE will allow the Township to post NIXLE feeds directly to our websites, Facebook and twitter. The upgrade will also provide the Township with an anonymous tip line through NIXLE for residents or followers to submit information about crimes and other matters directly to the Police. To stay current on happenings in the Township, subscribe to NIXLE.

### Disposing of Prescription Drugs

Abuse of prescription drugs is on an all-time rise and by partnering with Prevention is Key we are able to provide residents the opportunity to remove these prescription drugs from their homes and provide them with a safe and secure way of disposing them properly with no questions asked. Through the efforts of this program our hopes are to reduce the risk that these Prescription Drugs are available to be abused.

The following items will be accepted at the Med Return Box, which is located in the lobby of the Police Department and is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week: Prescriptions, prescription patches, prescription medications, prescription ointments, over the counter medications, vitamins, samples and medications or pets. *Items that are not accepted include hydrogen peroxide, inhalers, aerosol cans, ointments (lotions or liquids), medications from business or clinics, needles or sharps of any kind, and thermometers.*

If residents have a question regarding what items will be accepted or not, or any other question about the Med Drop Box, they may contact the Police Department at 973-625-4000.



## Public Works: Curbside Collection Details

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

**Grass Collection** will resume April through October, weekly from Wednesday to 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, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**For proper collection procedures**, 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 Procedure:** Should your recycling collection be canceled due to inclement weather, your recycling will be collected the next scheduled pick up day. We will post cancelations 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 2014 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 enumerated under the dates section on the recycling schedule).

**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 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. 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.



## Honoring Rockaway Township's Monuments Man

Rockaway Township and American Legion Post 344 held a very special ceremony and movie screening for one of our Township's most fascinating residents on February 24. Harry Ettlinger, a genuine national treasure, resides in Rockaway Township and is one of five surviving Monuments Men, a group whose work helped preserve culture for future generations.

The event, which was held at the Rockaway AMC 16 Theaters, featured proclamations from government and military dignitaries, a speech and introduction to the film by Mr. Ettlinger, and an exclusive screening of *Monuments Men*, featuring George Clooney. The movie tells the story of the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives effort – a group of 345 men and women from 13 countries that worked tirelessly to recover and return the cultural treasures that were stolen by the Nazis during World War II. The Monuments Men, as they became known, recovered as many as five million individual works of fine art and artifacts – worth billions of dollars today – which the Nazis had confiscated from museums, houses of worship and rightful owners.



*Assemblywoman BettyLou DeCroce honors Harry Ettlinger with a legislative proclamation.*

Harry's bar mitzvah. The Ettlingers made it to the United States and settled in Newark, NJ.

Six years later, Harry was drafted into the United States Army. He was assigned to the 99<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and was sent off to join the counterattack in the Battle of the Bulge. As he waited in a vehicle with a handful of his fellow soldiers, he was mysteriously pulled from the transit. Harry's fluency in German, an immense wartime asset, was to place him at the Nuremberg war trials as an interpreter. While in Munich awaiting assignment, Harry offered his services to the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives effort, and soon found himself translating testimony from Hitler's personal photographer.

Shortly thereafter, Harry was assigned to help supervise underground operations at the Nazi repository in the Heilbronn-Kochendorf salt mines. The underground mines had been utilized

by the Nazis to protect museum treasures. Harry's tenure with the Monuments Men would continue a year and a half. By helping assure the reclamation, restoration and preservation of the very objects that define cultures, Harry Ettlinger and the extraordinary men and women of the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives initiative preserved the richness of European culture for generations to come. Though Harry's most enduring accomplishments took place with this effort, his fascinating story is not limited to the work of this important international collective.

After the war effort, Harry went on to earn Master's degrees in mechanical engineering and business administration before becoming Deputy Program Director for a company that produced guidance systems for submarine-launched nuclear weapons. Today he co-chairs the Wallenberg Foundation of New Jersey, named for a wealthy Swedish-born Protestant who inspired others to help him rescue approximately 100,000 Hungarian Jews from the Holocaust. The organization empowers young people to positively affect society with individual actions. Harry also is active with the leadership of several local and regional veterans organizations.

The Monuments Men event was made possible by the support and work of many people. The event planning committee, consisting of representatives from municipal government, the Rockaway Township Police Department, the Historical Society of Rockaway Township, Picatinny Arsenal and American Legion Post 344, worked for several months to create a memorable tribute to Mr. Ettlinger and a memorable evening for the community.

The community owes special thanks to American Legion Post 344, whose generous support provided nearly 100 veterans and active servicemen/women complimentary admission to this event. The planning committee is also grateful to AMC Rockaway 16 Theaters and Sony Pictures, who accommodated every need and request the Township had. Thanks are also due to our friends at Picatinny Arsenal, who helped promote the event to veterans and active military. Finally, special thanks are due to Doug Abe, Todd Munt and John Dunado for their photo and video documentation of this event.



*Mayor Michael Dachisen presents Harry Ettlinger with a proclamation and trophy for his heroic work with the Monuments Men during World War II. Looking on are Councilmen Jeremy Jedynak and Max Rogers.*

## Community Services

### Frog Falls Aquatic Park

Registrations for Frog Falls, the Aquatic Park located on the grounds of Picatinny Arsenal, have begun for our Charter Members and also our Residents. Our new registration process allows you to create an account using Community Pass: <https://register.communitypass.net/reg/>

Once the account has been created, it will allow you to register for the pool. Credit cards are now accepted online only, which includes a 3% convenience fee. Checks are accepted either by mail, in person or may be placed in our payment drop box. The payment drop box is located alongside the Municipal Building, on the left hand side before entering the building. If paying by cash, we ask that you please bring exact change.

Partner Communities are eligible to join the Aquatic Park beginning on Monday, March 17th. Communities that are eligible to join include Randolph, Jefferson, Wharton, Denville, Mt. Arlington, Rockaway Borough, Mine Hill, Dover, Sparta, Roxbury, Rockaway Township Municipal/Board of Education employees, West Milford, Boonton, Victory Gardens Military Veterans (ID or DD214 Required), and Morris County First Responders (ID Required).

Sponsored Memberships will begin on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Active Military, Retired Veterans, 100% Disabled Veterans or DOD Civilian Employees must contact Picatinny directly by calling MWR at 973-724-5515.

A Family Membership package of the same family residing at the same mailing address is defined as one or both parents, legal guardians, children under the age of 21, and full-time students under the age of 24. Children can be natural or adopted, foster or any minor child/children for which the parents or guardians have legal custody. Children over the age of 21 that are incapable of self-support due to a mental and or physical incapability shall be considered in the family unit.

Refunds will be granted to applicants if requested prior to opening day. A 20% administrative fee will be deducted from all refunds. *No refunds* will be given after the pool has opened for the season on May 24, 2014.



Frog Falls Aquatic Park, located on the grounds of Picatinny Arsenal.

### Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. Clinic

The Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. Clinic – Sports Awareness for Educating Today's Youth – is a three-hour program conducted by hundreds of recreation departments and youth sports agencies throughout New Jersey. It is specifically designed to meet the stipulations of New Jersey law. Volunteer coaches who successfully complete the clinic are granted partial protection from potential lawsuits and their attendance is permanently recorded by the Rutgers Youth Sports Research Council. Clinics are free to any Rockaway Township Resident 12 years of age or older. To register, please create your account with Community Pass: <https://register.communitypass.net/reg/>

(See page eight for more Community Services spring programs)

## Common Construction Queries

### When is a permit required?

A permit is required for any work done on your property that is not considered a minor repair or ordinary maintenance. A list of common construction projects for which a permit is required may be found on the Township's website. If you are unsure, please contact the Construction Department at 973-983-2809 and we will be glad to assist you.

### Can a homeowner do their own work?

Yes, a homeowner may do their work if they are capable. However, it must be an owner-occupied, one family detached dwelling. If not, a licensed contractor is required.

### Can a homeowner draw their own plans?

Yes, a homeowner can produce their own plans if it is an owner-occupied, one family detached dwelling. However, the homeowner must show details and have accurate measurements and sizes. If a homeowner does not produce their own plans, they must be created by a New Jersey licensed architect and the plans must be signed and sealed.

### What happens if I don't get a permit?

If you choose not to acquire a permit, you will be subject to a violation and penalties. You will also be liable if there is a problem or someone is injured.

Please note that all home improvement contractors must be registered with the [NJ Division of Consumer Affairs](#).



## Community Services: Programs for your Family!

(Continued from page seven)

### Annual Easter Festival

Mayor Michael Dachisen invites you to attend Rockaway Township's Annual Easter Festival on Saturday, April 12 at 10:00am in the Copeland Middle School Gym. The Easter Festival is free and is open to all Rockaway Township children (Pre-school through 5th grade). This year's Easter Festival will feature the 3D Disc Jockey and, of course, an appearance by the Easter Bunny.



### Mt. Hope Beach Registration

Mt. Hope Beach registration and badge purchasing for Rockaway Township residents *only* will begin on May 5, 2014. Our new registration process allows you to create an account on Community Pass (proof of residency required): <https://register.communitypass.net/reg/> Once the account has been created, it will allow you to register for the pond. Credit Cards are now

accepted online only, which includes a 3% convenience fee. Checks are accepted by mail, in person or may be placed in our payment drop box. The drop box is located alongside the left side of the Municipal Building near the entrance. If paying by cash, please have exact change.

You *must* purchase your badges through Community Pass. Once you have registered through Community Pass, you must come to the Recreation Department with your receipt and a valid form of ID to receive your badge. Beach Details will be posted. Stay connected by subscribing to our website for up-to-date information and weather updates: <http://www.egovlink.com/rockaway/subscriptions/subscribe.asp>. Like us on Facebook, too!

The cost for each badge is \$25.00 per person. Guest passes may be purchased on the same day at the beach at a cost of \$2.00 per person. Exact change is required. Children under five years of age are admitted free. For your safety, please adhere to the beach rules. Thank you, and have a safe and enjoyable summer.

### Summer Recreation Registration

Registration for summer recreation programs begins on May 5. The recreation program, offered to Rockaway Township children entering 2nd through 8th grade in September, runs from June 30 through August 8 from 9:00am - 12:00pm. The recreation program meets at C.A. Dwyer or Katherine D. Malone or Birchwood School. The cost per child is \$55.00. Spaces are limited, so sign up early! The registration deadline is Friday, June 13, or until capacity is met.

Our new registration process allows you to create an account on Community Pass: <https://register.communitypass.net/reg/> Credit cards are now accepted online only, which includes a 3% convenience fee. Checks are accepted either by mail, in person or may be placed in our payment drop box. The drop box is located on the left side of the Municipal Building, near the entrance. If paying by cash, please have exact change.

Highly qualified teachers and trained counselors supervise all recreation locations. Great emphasis is placed on the safety and welfare of your child(ren) while they enjoy a variety of fun-filled activities. Summer activities and trips include bowling, driving range, miniature golf, swimming (at two locations), quiet games, sports games, arts and crafts, end of the season talent show, daily prizes, and a party for all campers including ice cream, watermelon, BBQ, pizza, popcorn and ice pops.

### Summer Concert Series and Memorial Day Parade

The Rockaway Gazebo Committee is proud to present its annual Summer Concert Series, held at Park Lake on Mt. Hope Road in Rockaway Township. The concert series, which will take place from 3:00pm – 5:00pm every Sunday from July 6 through August 31, features free summer entertainment for all. In the event of rain, concerts will be held at the United Methodist Church of the Rockaways, One Hoagland Avenue. Please check the Township website this summer for more details. Finally, the Denville/ Rockaway Memorial Association will hold its annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 26, 2014. Please be sure to check the Township website for details as Memorial Day nears.

## Division of Health

The Division of Health has a full slate of screenings, clinics and educational programs for the spring.

Residents may attend monthly blood pressure screenings at the Division of Health, and may also attend the Division's May 6 male cancer screening or May 19 blood chemistry screening. Registration is required in advance and some conditions apply, so please call the Division of Health at 973-983-2848 for more information. Please see the 'What's Happening' article on

page three of this newsletter for a schedule of these clinics and screenings, and check the Township website for regular updates.

The Division of Health and Morris County Prevention is Key presents its 'Chronic Disease Self-Management Program' each Wednesday from April 16 through May 12. The program, which will meet at the Municipal Building from 11:30am - 1:30pm, features interactive learning, fun and free catered lunch at each meeting. Registration is required and seating

is limited to 25 residents. Please call the Division of Health at 973-983-2848 to register.

Residents should plan on attending the 'Mosquito Control and West Nile Virus' education program at the Rockaway Township Public Library from 7:00pm - 8:30pm on May 15. Learn ways to protect yourself and your family from mosquito nuisances and disease with Kristian McMorland, Director of the Morris County Division of Mosquito Control. Please register by calling 973-627-2344.

## Mayor's Special Recognition

Congratulations to **Donna Murphy** and **Kellie Rumble** for completing the Technical Assistant to Construction Officials course at the County College of Morris.