

# Rockaway Township Report

Your Official Community Newsletter



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

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## Mayor's Corner



Summertime is here and I trust everyone has an enjoyable and safe holiday weekend! With the kids out of school and summer in full swing, everyone is busy - including the Township. The warm weather brings our families to picnics and pool parties, and this season brings the Township to road resurfacing and construction projects.

Rockaway Township aggressively pursues grant opportunities to

offset the cost of large capital projects, and the Township has been very successful in securing grants from the New Jersey Department of Transportation's Transitional Aid program. This year, the Township has received \$205,000 for the resurfacing of a portion of Daniel Street. Engineering work will take place over the next several months with a start date next summer.

In addition to State Department of Transportation funds, the Township receives money from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Clean

Communities program. The monies from the Clean Communities program are used for programs targeted at changing attitudes that cause littering and supporting volunteer efforts to clean up trash throughout our community. The Township was awarded more than \$48,000 this year to support these efforts.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Township's newsletter. Don't forget to like us on Facebook and visit [www.rockawaytownship.org](http://www.rockawaytownship.org) for current and upcoming Township news and events.

## What's Happening

### GAZEBO CONCERT SERIES

Rockaway Township, Rockaway Borough and the Gazebo Concert Committee are pleased to bring you the Annual Summer Concert Series, held every Sunday afternoon at 3:00pm at the Parks Lake Gazebo on Mt. Hope Road. In the event of inclement weather, the concerts will be held at the United Methodist Church of the Rockaways

### JULY

7<sup>th</sup> Thunder Hill - Country Western  
14<sup>th</sup> Cameos - Oldies to Present  
21<sup>st</sup> Richard Reither Productions - Swing  
28<sup>th</sup> Rave On - Legends of Rock and Roll

### AUGUST

4<sup>th</sup> Last Kall - Dance/Party Music  
11<sup>th</sup> James Dean Whiskey Café -Variety  
18<sup>th</sup> R & B Express - Great Dance Music  
25<sup>th</sup> Cameos - Back by Popular Demand!

### SUMMER PLAYGROUND

This program, offered July 1 - August 9, takes place at the Dwyer, Katherine D. Malone and Birchwood Schools. The Designed for children aged 2 - 8, the program includes activities like arts and crafts, trips, games and an end of season picnic. Register your child at the Department of Community Services in the Municipal Building, 65 Mt. Hope Road.

### JULY

10<sup>th</sup> Blood pressure screening - Municipal Building  
11:00am - 11:30am

### AUGUST

14<sup>th</sup> Blood pressure screening - Municipal Building  
11:00am - 11:30am

### SEPTEMBER

11<sup>th</sup> Blood pressure screening - Municipal Building  
11:00am - 11:30am

16<sup>th</sup> Blood chemistry screening - Municipal Building\*  
8:30am - 10:30am

24<sup>th</sup> Emergency Preparedness Program - Public Library\*  
7:00pm - 8:30pm

\* Pre-registration required for these events. Please call the Division of Health at 973-983-2848 for more information.



## Police Provide Prescription Drug Drop Box



The Rockaway Township Police Department is pleased to announce that they have partnered with Morris County Prevention is Key ([www.mcpik.org](http://www.mcpik.org)) to provide Township residents with a Med Return Drop Box. The Drop Box is located in the Police Department lobby, 65 Mt. Hope Road, and is available to residents 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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 hope is to reduce the risk that these prescription drugs are available to be abused.

The following items will be accepted at the Med Return Box: Prescriptions, Prescription Patches, Prescription Medications, Prescription Ointments, Over the Counter Medications, Vitamins, Samples, and Pet Medications.

*Items Not Accepted are – Hydrogen Peroxide, Inhalers, Aerosol Cans, Ointments (Lotions or Liquids,) Meds from Businesses or Clinics, Needles or Sharps of any kind, and Thermometers.*

If any Rockaway Township resident has questions about what items will be accepted or not, or has any other question about the Med Drop Box, they may contact the Police Department at 973-625-4000. Someone will be available to answer your questions about this new service to residents. Thank you.

## Messages from the Police Department

### Municipal Alliance Committee and Police Department Seek Your Input!

Please take a moment to complete a survey regarding which drug and alcohol prevention programs you feel would benefit Rockaway Township. To access the quick, important survey, go to [www.rockawaytwppd.org](http://www.rockawaytwppd.org), [www.surveymonkey.com/s/623D8SZ](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/623D8SZ), or visit the Rockaway Township Facebook page, Thank you!

### Please be Reminded About Parking Regulations

Residents are reminded that there is no parking allowed at any time on Split Rock Road, except in the designated parking lot. Residents can see this regulation and all other parking regulations by visiting [www.rockawaytownship.org](http://www.rockawaytownship.org) and by clicking on the Rockaway Township Code link.



## Mayor's Special Recognition

Mayor Michael Dachisen wishes to recognize some standout Rockaway Township employees for their extraordinary efforts in serving the Township and its residents.

Sergeant Rob Scherr of the Rockaway Township Police Department goes above his duties as a police officer by volunteering to clean up litter along Green Pond Road when he is off duty. He takes pride in the community in which he lives and works, and wants to be part of the solution. He has cumulatively picked up over two tons of garbage along the road and continues to do so. Thank you, Sergeant Scherr for helping beautify our community.

Division of Health staff members Susan Sooy, Cara Sileno and Jamie Breiten have for several months gone far above and beyond in helping to restore health and dignity to a resident in significant emotional and physical distress. Besides suffering mental illness, the resident's home had fallen into disrepair, and

there were numerous issues of public and personal health significance posing an imminent threat to her well-being.

Division of Health staff not only provided this resident with new resources including mental health services, prescription evaluation, links to therapy and home care, but visited with her on a daily basis, often on their own personal time, and purchased numerous household items for her - always with their own money. In addition, they worked after hours to clean her home, adopt out numerous cats, and even helped the resident pack to move – all the while restoring stability and dignity to this resident's life. While it's difficult to enumerate the effort, time and money that Susan, Cara and Jamie have devoted to this resident's extraordinary needs, their work is exemplary.

Mayor Michael Dachisen wishes to acknowledge all of these employees for their selfless and tireless work in serving Rockaway Township.

# Paving Projects for 2013

Morris County will be paving portions of Green Pond Road. These areas include:

- Jacobs Road to Deerhaven Lane (1.63 miles)
- Route 80 through Commons Way (1 mile)
- Telemark Road to Darlington Drive (0.8 mile)

Thank you, Morris County, for approving Green Pond Road in your annual resurfacing program. Actual times of paving to be announced at a later date.

The Rockaway Township Department of Public Works will be paving the following streets or parts thereof in 2013:

- North Street
- Jefferson Street
- Berkshire Avenue
- Garrison Avenue
- Hillside Avenue
- Sherbrook Drive
- Fieldstone Lane
- Timber Court
- Fernwood Road
- Raleigh Court
- Pine Terrace
- White Meadow Road
- Mountain Avenue
- Schoolhouse Road

**Did You Know:**  
**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 the Township's website at [www.rockawaytownship.org](http://www.rockawaytownship.org)**

# Recycling: Cut it and Leave it this Summer

It's simple - just leave your clippings on the lawn when you mow. Grass clippings leave a natural and healthy fertilizer for a growing lawn. Try mulching - a mulching blade chops up grass clippings into fine pieces that slip easily into the soil.

You'll also save money. You won't have to spend money on fertilizer since clippings left on the lawn recycle nutrients such as nitrogen back into the soil.

Clippings do not create thatch in the lawn. Thatch is formed from dead grass roots and stems. The more you fertilize and water your lawn, the faster thatch accumulates.

Grass is collected weekly, Wednesday to Friday. There is no specific collection day. Place grass in a reusable trash container. Please do not mix grass clippings with brush or leaves - it will not be collected.

Some leaf matter is expected but it must be segregated from the bulk of your leaf collection.

For a full Rockaway Township recycling schedule, including more information regarding leaf and brush drop off and details about what materials are accepted at curbside and our recycling centers, go to [www.rockawaytownship.org/Recycle.cfm](http://www.rockawaytownship.org/Recycle.cfm) and scroll to the bottom of the page.



# Barbecuing: Don't Fall Ill When You Grill!

Now that the sun is shining brightly and we are firing up our barbecues on a routine basis, it's important to follow food safety guidelines to prevent harmful bacteria from multiplying and causing foodborne illness. Use these simple guidelines for grilling food safely!

### Defrost Safely

Completely defrost meat and poultry before grilling so it cooks more evenly. Use the refrigerator for slow, safe thawing or thaw sealed packages in cold water. You can microwave defrost if the food

will be placed immediately on the grill.

### Marinating

Meat and poultry can be marinated for several hours or days to tenderize or add flavor, but food should be marinated in the refrigerator, not on the counter. If some of the marinade is to be used as a sauce on the cooked food, reserve that portion of the marinade before putting raw meat and poultry in it.

### Cook Thoroughly

Cook food thoroughly to destroy harmful bacteria. Meat and poultry cooked on a grill

often browns very fast on the outside. Use a food thermometer to be sure the food has reached a safe internal temperature. Never partially grill meat or poultry and finish cooking later. Please adhere to the following minimum internal temperatures when cooking: Whole poultry - 170°F; Hamburgers - 160°F; Ground poultry - 170°F; Beef, veal & lamb steaks - 145°F; Roasts & chops - 145°F; Pork - 160°F.

For more information on safe summer food handling, contact the Division of Health at 973-983-2848.

**Ground beef should be cooked to an internal temperature of 160°F to kill harmful bacteria like E. coli**

**HOMESTEAD****BENEFIT****PROGRAM****Eligible**

**homeowners will  
receive the 2011**

**Homestead****Benefit as**

**a credit applied  
to their property**

**taxes in August**

**2013**

**FROG FALLS  
AQUATIC PARK  
PICATINNY  
ARSENAL**

**Last chance to  
beat the heat of  
summer! There**

**are only a  
limited number  
of memberships  
available for the**

**2013 season!**

**Don't miss  
out!!!**

## Updates from your Library

### Library Ventilation Project Complete

The Rockaway Township Library heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) renovation is complete, and the new air conditioning system is working great! The library is open for business with both a lovely climate and a new circulation desk, and all summer programs are ready for everyone to enjoy!

Please stop over anytime and enjoy all the improvements to the Rockaway Township Library. Please also check out the library's website at <http://www.rtlibrary.org/> for a list of our many summer programs. We hope to see you soon!

### Farewell to Our Head of Reference/IT

Head of Reference/IT Michael Maziekien has been appointed Director of the Kenilworth Public Library. In two plus years with the Rockaway Library, he has given many people the confidence they need to use their computers, Nooks, Kindles, iPads, Smartphones and other emerging technologies. Michael ran the Afternoon Book Club and, along with Emily Weissenstein, started the Passport to Adventure Reading Program.

Michael's last day will be July 5th. If he has helped you in the past with a reference or technology question, please feel free to stop by and say "Thank you" and "Good Luck"! He will be missed.

## Community Services

### Ford-Faesch House Phase III Exterior Construction Project Completed

The Historical Society and Rockaway Township are pleased to report that the final exterior



*Circa 1970s*

restoration project is completed. With 2011 grant funds from the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust, the

Ford Faesch House now has all of the doors and windows restored to how they would have looked in 1772 when the house was originally constructed by Col. Jacob Ford (who also built the Ford Mansion in Morristown, Washington's Headquarters, several years later). This final phase of exterior restoration completes an effort that has spanned more than three decades.

The Township and Historical Society wish to express their sincere appreciation to all the individuals, groups and the general public for their support and generosity in saving this critical piece of National and Rockaway Township history.

The Society is now making preparations for the restoration of the interior of the building. The public is encouraged to continue participating in the programs at the house. Please



*2013*

join us for our Fourth of July celebration (July 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> from 11am - 2pm). Please see the Township website calendar for other events.

## Mayor Michael G. Dachisen Invites You...

All Rockaway Township senior residents are invited to our **Annual Senior Picnic**, scheduled from 12:00pm - 4:00pm on Wednesday, September 11 at the Cragmeur Recreation Complex. Delicious food, music, door prizes and good fellowship will be offered to the Township's senior residents. Representatives from municipal departments, health agencies and area organizations will be present to meet with residents and to disseminate information regarding their services.

The Annual Senior Picnic is open to all Rockaway Township senior residents, and proof of residency will be required at the gate. No pets or children will be allowed in the park at this event.

For additional information, please contact the Office of the Mayor at 973-983-2800. We look forward to seeing you there!