

Rockaway Township Report



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www.rockawaytownship.org

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Mayor's Corner



Congratulations to all the Rockaway Township students who have graduated. Whether you are off to Morris Hills or Morris Knolls High School or college in the fall, I wish you a safe and enjoyable summer with your family and friends. There are many exciting events and projects going on within the Township this time of year,

and I trust you find this issue of the Township newsletter helpful and informative.

Rockaway Township aggressively pursues grant opportunities to offset the cost of large capital projects. The Township has been very successful in securing grants from the New Jersey Department of Transportation's Local Aid program. The Township just completed a second section of resurfacing on Lake Denmark Road, and the amount of grant monies awarded for both phases of this resurfacing project totaled \$455,000.

In addition to State Department of Transportation

funds, the Township receives money from the 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 \$63,000 this year to support these efforts.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Rockaway Township newsletter. Don't forget to like us on Facebook and visit www.rockawaytownship.org for Township news and events.

Public Works & Recycling

Scheduled Paving

The Department of Public Works is pleased to advise residents that the following streets have been approved for resurfacing:

- Meriden Road (*Old Beach Glen to Moore Road*)
- Old Beach Glen Road (*Crescent Ridge Road to Meriden Road*)
- Lyonsville Road (*Deerlea to Splitrock Road*)
- Splitrock Road (*Upper Hibernia Road to unimproved*)
- Upper Hibernia Road (*Splitrock to existing keyway*)
- Robin Street (*all*)

Dangerous Road Conditions

You are the eyes and ears of our community. Should you see a dangerous road condition such as a pothole, collapsing storm drain, downed street sign or tree/tree limb in the road, please contact the Rockaway Township DPW at 973-983-2891 or the Police Department (after 3:30 and on the weekends) at 973-625-4000 to report these issues. The DPW sincerely

appreciates your notifications, which enable us to provide safer roads.

Berm Repair

You may notice some minor road damage as a result of snow plowing. If you notice that your asphalt berm has been damaged, please contact the Rockaway Township DPW and leave your name and address and extent of the damage. A supervisor will assess the damage and your property will be placed on a list to be repaired as soon as weather and materials permit.

Recycling News - Labeling Receptacles

Residents occasionally call to report that their waste receptacles have not been collected. It is imperative that residents label their receptacles to identify the materials in them. Rockaway Township has 'yard waste' and 'recycling' stickers available to our residents at the Municipal Building. If you are unable to pick them, up please call 973-983-2891 and leave your name and address, and stickers will be mailed to you.

(continued on page four)

Mining Museum Opens at Ford-Faesch House

The walls of the Ford-Faesch House are no longer the only part of this historic structure that talks to its visitors! On May 7, The Historical Society of Rockaway Township (HSRT) opened up a new Mining Museum Room dedicated to educating the public on the area's rich iron heritage.

Step into the room and you are automatically ahead one half-hour in 'Mining Time,' which added extra daylight to the miners' workday. Mining Time was at least 50 years ahead of Daylight Savings time in practice.

Three centuries of Rockaway Township mining history are ready to greet you. Our earliest mines are said to date back to around 1710, when local inhabitants were able to surface mine iron ore with a mere pick, shovel and wheel barrow.

Through the ensuing decades, other local mines and furnaces began to spring up. One notable establishment was the 'Adventure

Furnace,' later renamed for its location in Hibernia. This operation was once partially owned by Revolutionary War General William Alexander, a.k.a. Lord Stirling. Local mines and furnaces produced ammunition for the Continental Army.

The 19th century Split Rock Furnace supported the Civil War, the Richard Mine and the 2,500+ foot deep New Leonard (today on Tilcon property) expanded operations to support both World Wars. There were also mining operations in the Lake Denmark area called the "Middle Forge," the remnants of which can be found today at Picatinny Arsenal.

Displays and artifacts at the Mining Museum will seek to tell these stories. A full-scale model of the early 20th Century Mt. Hope Mining Complex provides three-dimensional insight into both its above ground and underground worlds.

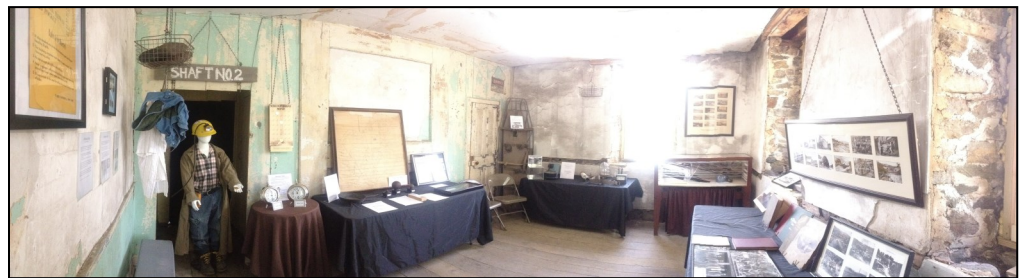
A day in a miner's life differed

somewhat over the past 300 years. Museum guides, and occasionally someone who worked in the mines, are always happy to bring it to life for you. The HSRT mascot, Manny the Miner, is perpetually displayed exiting the mineshaft after a long shift, ready to go home – but never does. Manny Quinn stays frozen in time to assist with the miner's narrative.

The Grand Opening featured a sampling of artifacts, maps, books and displays that will be available for view during the summer, when the Ford-Faesch House will be open to the public the second Sunday of each month. Specific hours of operation will be made available by the HSRT and Department of Community Services. There are additional events planned for the fall and winter when the Mining Museum will be open, as well. The exhibits – featuring different themes – will rotate every couple of months, and the public is encouraged to visit often!

The Park Lake Gazebo Concert Series is back! Concerts are free and will take place each Sunday in July & August at 3pm. Come check it out! Check the Township website for more information

Remember to like Rockaway Township on Facebook! By checking our Facebook page regularly, you will find regular announcements, news, photos and more!



Open House at Ford-Faesch July 2 through 5

The Rockaway Township Historical Society invites residents to visit the Ford-Faesch Ironmaster House this Independence Day weekend. Historical Society members in Revolutionary War period attire will offer insight into the history of the property, its owners and Rockaway Township.

Come enjoy self-guided tours, historical displays and more! Admission to the public is free and open house hours are 11:00am – 2:00pm on July 2, 3 and 4. The Ford-Faesch Ironmaster House is located at 629 Mount Hope Road, Rockaway Township. For more information and updates, email rockawayhistory@verizon.net.



What's Happening

GAZEBO CONCERT SERIES

Rockaway Township residents are reminded to come out and enjoy the Annual Summer Concert Series, held every Sunday afternoon from 3:00pm - 5:00pm at the Parks Lake Gazebo on Mt. Hope Road. *In the event of inclement weather, the concerts will be held at the Rockaway Townsquare Mall (Macy's Lower Level).*

JULY

- 3 Thunder Hill - Country Western
- 10 Sunset Soundz - Music for Dancing
- 17 Symphonics - Dance and Party Music
- 24 Joan Oakes - Contemporary Music
- 31 Jersey Sound - Oldies & Up

AUGUST

- 7 Tequila Rose - Country Mix
- 14 Groovin' Easy - Soft Jazz
- 21 Soul Groove - Versatile Mix of Music
- 28 Cameos - Back by Popular Demand

UPCOMING TOWNSHIP PROGRAMS

JULY

- 2, 3 Ford-Faesch Open House
& 4 Ford-Faesch House, 629 Mt. Hope Road
11:00am - 2:00pm each day
- 6 Blood pressure screening
Rockaway Township Municipal Building
11:00am - 11:30am

AUGUST

- 3 Blood pressure screening
Rockaway Township Municipal Building
11:00am - 11:30am

SEPTEMBER

- 7 Senior Citizen Resident Picnic
Craigmeur Recreation Complex
11:00am - 3:00pm
- 7 Blood pressure screening
Rockaway Township Municipal Building
11:00am - 11:30am
- TBD Men's Health Educational Program
Atlantic Health Pavilion
333 Mount Hope Road, Rockaway

* Pre-registration required for some Township events. Please call the appropriate department for information.

Walton Cemetery Dedication

Members of the Morristown Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the U.S. Army dedicated the Walton Cemetery, located on Arsenal property, to the memory of the Revolutionary War soldiers and patriots from Rockaway Township buried there. The remains of Reuben Walton Pvt., Henry Bonnel Pvt. and William Burwell Pvt., all having fought with the Morris County Militia, are interred at this site.

The cemetery dates back to land once owned by John Jacob Faesch (The Ford-Faesch House historic site is located just a short distance away) and likely contains the remains of over 100 citizens from the local area. Also buried here are local patriots Ephraim Burwell, Jonathan Fordham and William Wiggins, all who helped produce ammunition for George Washington at Faesch's Iron Forge. Rockaway Township was a very patriotic village during the American Revolution; there are 44 Revolutionary War soldiers buried at the nearby Presbyterian Church Cemetery, including General William Winds.

The only references describing the Walton Burial Ground are found in Munsell's *1739-1882 History of Morris County*. The cemetery was known at different times as Walton Yard and Faesch's Cemetery. The Doland family was buried here as well as the Burwell and Merritt families, and there are still a few headstones remaining. Most of the graves are unmarked, with only a simple shaped field stone protruding from the ground marking the burial plot. This was quite common at the time. The cemetery was largely forgotten until it was uncovered in 1941, when Picatinny Arsenal was digging to establish a new nitroglycerin plant for the war effort.

Picatinny Arsenal has done an outstanding job reclaiming, preserving and maintaining this historic cemetery, which is not open to the general public. Attending the dedication were members of the DAR; Picatinny Arsenal personnel, including Garrison Commander Col. Ingrid Parker; members of the Ogdensburg VFW; staff from the Arsenal and Rockaway Township; as well as members of the Historical Society of Rockaway Township.



Representatives of Picatinny Arsenal, Rockaway Township, the Ogdensburg VFW and the Daughters of the Revolution dedicate the Walton Cemetery at Picatinny Arsenal.

Public Works & Recycling *(continued from page one)*

Bulk curbside pick-up is for a maximum of 150 pounds of household items, and not for moving purposes.

Check the Waste Wizard or call 973-983-2891 to see which items are acceptable for bulk pickup, and check the ReCollect app to confirm your collection days.

Is there something you would like to see in this newsletter or other Rockaway Township communications? Do you have tips for helpful information or improved content? Please email administrator@rockawaytownship.org with your suggestions!

The drivers who collect recycling, yard waste and trash sincerely appreciate the labeling of waste receptacles, as it eliminates the need for collectors to stop at every single receptacle, only to find that it doesn't contain the material they are collecting. In turn, it ensures proper collection for you.

Calendars

Many of the recycling route collection dates have changed in 2016, and nearly all of the letter designations have changed (Routes A-F). If you haven't already done, so please visit www.rockawaytownship.org/189/Recycle and click on the 'My Schedule' tab and input your home address. Here you can view or print your personalized collection calendar and sign up for important alerts and reminders with Rockaway Township's 'ReCollect' app. Not sure how to dispose of something? Click the tab for 'Waste Wizard' and enter the material you are looking to dispose of. Click on the 'Facilities' tab for information about our locations and hours of operation.

For additional information, click on the 'Print Flyers' tab to learn about single stream recycling, hazardous household waste drop off events and the Township's bulk clean-up and vegetative waste collections.

Single Stream Recycling

Curbside collection of recyclables is 'single stream' or 'no sort.' This means you may put cans, bottles, newspapers and cardboard out for collection together. For large amounts of cardboard, you may also break down smaller boxes and place them in one large box (three maximum).

Recyclables may be placed at the curb in tote-style containers (preferred) filled to capacity, or in regular garbage receptacles no heavier than 50 pounds each. No plastic bags or garbage may be mixed in with the single stream recyclables, and receptacles with plastic bags will be rejected. Please note that our recycling centers are *not* single stream, and recyclables must be separated into commingled (cans and bottles), cardboard and newspaper.

Leaf and Brush Collection

Brush and leaves are collected curbside weekly April through December. Please visit www.rockawaytownship.org/189/Recycle and input your address for a collection schedule. Leaves must be in either brown biodegradable bags or cans labeled *Yardwaste* (stickers are available at the Municipal Building free of charge). Brush must be no more than six inches in diameter, and tied and bundled in manageable four foot lengths weighing no more than 50

pounds each.

Rockaway Township's McVeigh Recycling Center accepts leaves, as well as brush up to four inches in diameter. No grass is accepted. *No landscapers are permitted to use the recycling drop-off for brush, grass or leaves.*

Grass Collection

Grass is collected from April through October weekly. Go to www.rockawaytownship.org/189/Recycle to confirm your collection day. Grass must be in either brown biodegradable bags or receptacles with a lid labeled 'Grass' or 'Vegetative Waste,' and are to be placed at the curb by 6:00am on your designated collection day. Receptacles *must* be labeled, and are to be no heavier than 50 pounds each. Three cans maximum are permitted.

Paint

Rockaway Township recycling does not accept paint, stain, sealer or solvents. Latex paints may be disposed of with normal household garbage, but *only in the following manner*: Sand or kitty litter should be placed in the paint can, and the can should air dry with the lid removed until it is solid. It may then be disposed of. All other listed items must be taken to the Mt. Olive Transfer Station, located at 168 Gold Mine Road, Flanders. Call 973-347-8106 to make an appointment.

Mayor's Special Recognition

Mayor Michael Dachisen is pleased to welcome the newest addition to Rockaway Township's team. Cara Sileno-Weiberth, Registered Environmental Health Specialist with the Division of Health, gave birth to daughter Annabelle on June 8!

Mayor Dachisen wishes to congratulate the Rockaway Township Administration team and the Rockaway Township Board of Education for implementing a shared services agreement for solid waste container collection that will save

Rockaway Township residents over \$23,000 per year.

Congratulations to the Rockaway Township Volunteer Fire Department, recognized for their response to a major fire in Hillsborough Township, NJ in February 2016. Thank you for your dedication!



Community Services for Residents

Swim Lessons for Residents

Teaching children to swim and encouraging regular swimming provides significant benefits to their health and safety, and residents are encouraged to join the Rockaway Township Division of Recreation at Mount Hope Pond this summer.

Registration for Mount Hope Pond beach badges and swimming lessons is now open at register.communitypass.net/rockaway. Lessons are held Monday through Thursday during several two week sessions. Classes are 30 minutes in length and cost \$15 per child per session. Schedules are available at the web address noted above or by calling the Division of Recreation at 973-983-2841.

September is Hunger Awareness Month

Rockaway Township enjoys a rich heritage of giving back. Every community is affected by those who are hungry – they are our neighbors, our co-workers, our friends and others who need our help. This September, let's join together in putting food back on the shelves of the 'Rockaway Food Closet.'

The drive will be held until September 30. Please look for food donation bins at the Rockaway Township Municipal Building, Public Library and schools throughout the month of September. Please share this information with friends and neighbors. You can help fill the pantry at the First Presbyterian Church by sending your child to school with at least one non-perishable item. The final collection for food is Friday, September 30.

Summer Camp

Starting on June 27, your 2nd through 8th grader can enjoy the Summer Playground Program, held Monday through Friday at Katherine D. Malone, Dennis B. O'Brien or Dwyer School.

Registration – only \$55 per child for the entire six weeks of summer camp – is now open through Community Pass. The Summer Playground program is run from 9am to 12pm, and kids get to enjoy day trips for mini golf, Mt. Hope Pond and Frog Falls water park! Call the Division of Recreation at 973-983-2841 for more information.

County Board Recommends Grant for Ford-Faesch House

The Morris County Historic Preservation Trust Fund Review Board this week recommended \$2.7 million in grants from the County's 2016 Preservation Trust Fund to help preserve, restore or protect 32 historic sites in 19 towns across Morris County. Rockaway Township is proud to announce that the Ford-Faesch house, located on Mt. Hope Road, is one of those sites and was recommended for \$210,990 in grant funding.

The grant money would come from Morris County's Open Space, Farmland, Floodplain Protection and Historic Preservation Trust Fund, and the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders will make a final decision on these recommendations at their July 13 public meeting.

The Ford-Faesch House, built by Colonel Jacob Ford, Jr. in 1768, was leased by John Jacob Faesch, a Swiss ironmaster, whose superior-quality munitions and iron products were critical to George Washington's Revolutionary War effort. This grant would provide for the restoration of the west wing with building system upgrades. The house was in an advanced state of deterioration when the Township acquired it in 1982, but cooperative management by the Historical Society of Rockaway Township and several grants have been instrumental in the continued restoration of this historic building.

Construction Permits

With summer warmth upon us, many residents are likely thinking about summer projects. If you are planning to renovate your bathroom or kitchen, build a deck, put up a new fence, install a swimming pool or perform any other home improvement, you will need to know which permits are required. Please check www.rockawaytownship.org or call the Building Department at 973-983-2809 to verify permit requirements for all of your future projects. Permit applications may be downloaded from the Township website.

All Home Improvement Contractors must be registered with the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs. Please visit www.njconsumeraffairs.gov to verify contractor's registration.



Bicycle Safety

The school year has ended and the summer months are here, bringing enjoyable weather and many days of family fun. The Rockaway Township Police Department wishes to remind Township residents of the following bike safety tips:

- Wear a bike helmet
- Adjust your bicycle to fit
- Check your equipment
- See and be seen
- Control the bicycle
- Watch for and avoid road hazards
- Use verbal and non-verbal communications
- Avoid riding at night
- Know where to ride safely
- Follow the rules of the road

For more information, please visit the following National Highway Safety Administration link: www.nhtsa.gov/Bicycles

Grilling Safety is in Your Hands

Please use the following recommendations from Rockaway Township Fire Prevention to assure that your next barbecue is both safe and enjoyable.

Grilling Safety Tips

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills must only be used outdoors. If used indoors, such as a garage, or in any enclosed spaces, such as tents, they pose both a fire hazard and the risk of exposing occupants to toxic gases and potential asphyxiation.
- Position the grill well away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas and foot traffic.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area: declare a three-foot "safe zone" around the grill.
- Put out several long-handled grilling tools to give the chef plenty of clearance from heat and flames when flipping burgers.
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.

Charcoal Grills

- Purchase the proper starter fluid and store the can out of reach of children, and away from heat sources.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited, and never use any flammable or combustible liquid other than charcoal starter fluid to get the fire going.

Propane Grills

- Check the gas cylinder hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. A light soap and water solution applied to the hose will quickly reveal escaping propane by releasing bubbles.
- If you determine your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.
- If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not attempt to move the grill.
- Use only equipment with the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Follow the manufacturer instructions on how to set up and maintain the grill.

Don't Forget:
The annual
Rockaway
Township Senior
Citizen Resident
Picnic will take
place at the
Craigmeur
Recreation
Complex from
11am - 3pm on
September 7.
We look forward
to seeing our
seniors there for
barbecue, door
prizes, fun and
fellowship!



MAC 5K Run

The Municipal Alliance Committee, funded by the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, is pleased to invite residents to participate in the #Choose2B' 5K race. The race is scheduled for 9:30am on Sunday, September 25, with registration at 8:30am. The race will begin at the McKinnon Middle School, 137 East Central Ave., Wharton.

Color packets will be available for sale at the race, so it's guaranteed to be a **colorful** time for all. Proceeds benefit substance abuse prevention programs for our community. A one mile fun run will also be held, scheduled to begin at 9:00am. Interested residents can find out more at www.Alliance5krun.com.

Township Clerk: A Little History

The history of the position of 'clerk' is unclear. In ancient Greece, there were secretaries for each polis who read official documents publicly, and at the opening of a meeting read public cures. The early keepers of the archives were often called 'remembrancers,' and before writing came into use, their memory was public record.

When the early colonists came to America, one of the first offices established was that of clerk, and the office has existed for centuries. In fact, the colony at Plymouth appointed a person to serve as a recorder. In the United States, the clerk serves as the official keeper of municipal records, and presents

the agenda and minutes for meetings of the governing body. Clerks are also responsible for issuing licenses, overseeing local elections and, in some communities, serving as Registrar of Vital Statistics.

The Municipal Clerk has been known as the 'Chief Cook and Bottle Washer,' as they are responsible for a variety of things to ensure that the municipality functions as smoothly as possible. The Municipal Clerk has also been known as a key contact for the community. Many times, people do not know where to go for information pertaining to a specific need – the Clerk's office is here to assist you!