

Rockaway Township Report



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Rockaway, NJ 07866
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www.rockawaytownship.org

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Mayor's Corner: 2015 Address



It is my privilege to serve as your Mayor and to have the opportunity to share with you, the residents of this great municipality, the state of the Township. There are many things that my Administration is pursuing to maintain and improve upon the quality life here in Rockaway Township. As you know being proactive is a hallmark of my administration, and I am pleased to report that our efforts continue and build upon prior accomplishments.

Making Township services accessible to all residents, especially those that are unable to come to the Municipal Building during traditional business hours is important to me. The Township redesigned its website a few years ago providing for automated service requests, allowing residents to report issues and then having the ability to evaluate our performance regarding the service we provided through a customer satisfaction survey. While this was the first time Township services were available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, I am committed to seeing more

services available online with a continuing investment in our technology this year.

An example of this is the implementation of a new interactive recycling tool to help residents remember their collection days. By signing up on the Township's website residents can now receive a customized reminder that will ensure you never miss a pick up again. The web based tool allows all residents to set up reminders that can be automatically sent to you by email, text message, phone, or on your outlook calendar. The applications for iPhone and Android phones will be available this February. If you don't have access to a computer you can call the Department of Administration for assistance.

In 2015, Administration will evaluate outdated departmental processes and utilize available technologies or third party applications to increase organizational efficiency. The old way of doing business will change. One such improvement will be the annual pet licensing, where we will work towards eliminating many manual steps and providing a web based option for residents including the ability to select a one, two, or three year license along with making payments available online.

In addition to the use and implementation of new technology the Township continues seeking grants and making investments in our infrastructure. The Township has gone out to bid on a much needed improvement to Peterson Field. The construction of a new parking lot which addresses critical safety issue along Fleetwood drive is scheduled to be completed this year along with the much needed remodeling of the existing concession stand are ways the Township makes meaningful investments in its infrastructure.

The Township also 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. Last year the Township received \$225,000 for the resurfacing of another section of Lake Denmark Road. The Township has also received a \$68,150 grant for its local recycling efforts from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The grant is awarded through the Recycling Enhancement Act that rewards cities and towns for increasing annual recycling tonnage.

(continued on page 2)

Home Heating Message from Construction

Residents who are planning to use a pellet stove or wood burning stove to heat their home this winter are asked to contact the Construction Department regarding any permit requirements that may be applicable. We wish to keep everyone safe.

Please note that all home improvement contractors must be registered with the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs. Residents are encouraged to

visit the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs website to verify a contractor's registration status.

The Construction Department is here to assist you in following all applicable state and municipal regulations. Should you require any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us at 973-983-2809, or email the Construction Department at: construction@rockawaytownship.org.

**Annual Easter Festival:
Sunday, March 28 at 10:00am in the Copeland Middle School Gym - Open to Rockaway Township children pre-school through 5th grade!**



First quarter taxes are due on February 1, with a 10 day interest free period. Please submit your tax payment online at Rockaway Township's website

Mayor's Corner *(continued from page one)*

The Township has also seen significant infrastructure investment made by New Jersey Natural Gas with the installation of natural gas service throughout the White Meadow Lake section of the Township. These investments in our infrastructure improve property values and contribute to the quality of life for our residents.

Public safety is also a significant issue for our residents and those that visit the Township. As you know after extended negotiations with the ownership of the Rockaway Townsquare mall, an agreement was reached resulting in the Mall making annual payments that are automatically renewable for a total of five years. It is important to acknowledge the cooperation and good faith of the Mall ownership that recognized the public safety needs of the Township. This agreement helped contribute to an incident free holiday shopping this past season.

Something that concerns all taxpayers in the Township is the continued burden of property taxes. The Township has implemented a process of annual property re-inspections. The purpose of these inspections is not to increase property taxes but to keep the Township's property values, your property values, current with existing market conditions. Through this process of re-inspections the Township has seen the reduction in the number of tax appeals filed. Fewer tax appeals translate to less taxpayer money having to be spent to defend these appeals and paying out large refunds.

Other actions that have been taken to address the property tax issue include reducing the

Township's workforce by twelve percent since 2007 and making an effort to ensure that residents do not see a loss of service. The Township has also saved money from changing the way we purchase our electricity and natural gas and we have generated new revenue entering into shared service agreements with other Morris County communities. These actions have resulted in more than \$1 million of savings to Township taxpayers.

In addition, an action that the Council will take this evening ratifying labor agreements with four of the Township's six labor unions will have immediate and long term benefits for taxpayers. For the first time salary increases will be tied to employee performance, large accumulated time payouts will be phased out and ultimately eliminated, and starting salaries will be more in line with market conditions. I am proud of these accomplishments that put the Township taxpayer first.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the department heads, supervisors, employees and volunteers for the excellent services they provided to our community. I want to thank my friends on the Council for their continuing support and guidance in future plans. Finally, on behalf of the Township Council and myself, I would like to thank all the residents for the continuing support and help in making Rockaway Township a great place to live and call home for their families.

I wish everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year.
Mayor Michael G. Dachisen

Update from the Police Department

Retirement Wishes

The Rockaway Township Police Department wishes to Congratulate Patrolman Patricia Abrahamsen and Sergeant Michael Wladich on their retirements, effective December 31, 2014. Sergeant Wladich started his career with the Police Department in 1988 and was promoted to Sergeant in 2002. Patrolman Abrahamsen started her career with the Department in 1995 and was assigned to the Detective Bureau from 2008 - 2012.

Both officers have made significant contributions to the Township and the Department and will be sorely missed. We wish them both health and happiness in their retirements.

Planning for Winter

With winter upon us, the Police Department urges all residents to have a household plan in place in the event of weather-related emergencies. Have a plan and be sure everyone in your home knows the plan. For help in developing your family's

plan, visit the Township and Police Department websites, and look under 'Services' for planning information.

Stay informed with emergencies and emergency closures in the Township, as well as other important news and updates, by subscribing to NIXLE. Go to NIXLE.com to sign up - it's easy and it's free. Also, please be familiar with the Township Ordinances regarding snow removal and parking on streets that are snow covered.

If You Fall Through the Ice: Safety Tips

What should you do if you fall through the ice? First, try not to panic. This may be easier said than done, unless you have worked out a survival plan in advance. Read through these steps so you can be prepared.

- *Don't remove your winter clothing.* Heavy clothes won't drag you down, but instead can trap air to provide warmth and flotation. This is especially true with a snowmobile suit.
- *Turn toward the direction from which you came.* That's probably the strongest ice.
- *Place your hands and arms on the unbroken surface.* A pair of nails, sharpened screwdrivers or ice picks come in handy in providing the extra traction you need to pull yourself up onto the ice.
- *Kick your feet and dig in your ice picks to work your way back onto the solid ice.* If your clothes have trapped a lot of water, you may have to lift yourself partially out of the water on your elbows to let the water drain before starting forward.
- *Lie flat on the ice once you are out and roll away from the hole to keep your weight spread out.* This may help prevent you from breaking through again.
- *Get to a warm, dry, sheltered area* and re-warm yourself immediately. In moderate to severe cases of cold water hypothermia, you must seek medical attention. Cold blood trapped in your extremities can come rushing back to your heart after you begin to re-warm. The shock of the chilled blood may cause ventricular fibrillation, possibly leading to a heart attack and death.

The Rockaway Township Fire Department has members trained in Ice and Water Rescue that are on call 24 hours a day in case of a water emergency, along with an Ice and Water Rescue vehicle, which contains all the equipment necessary to extract someone that falls through the ice.



Ice Safety Tips Are Courtesy of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources



Rockaway Township Business Administrator Gregory Poff (second from right) is photographed with the New Jersey Municipal Managers Association Executive Board

The Roosevelts & Rockaway Township

The recent PBS airing of *The Roosevelts: An Intimate History* brought back a reminder to the public consciousness of the many contributions of that presidential family. Far less know, however, are the Roosevelt connections to the Rockaway Township area.

Early in Franklin Roosevelt's first term, wife Eleanor was famous for her cross-country jaunts in a brand-new, light-blue Buick Roadster. FDR felt Eleanor's trips were not the best endorsement of a president looking to rescue his Depression-era constituents and made her give up her convertible. The car was designated to go to Birch & Birch Automobiles in nearby Dover.

Some twenty years later, Eleanor graced both Rockaway municipalities with her presence. On May 12, 1955, the former First Lady gave "an inspiring talk" at Morris Hills High School, visited a White Meadow Lake residence and attended a banquet given in her honor, also at White Meadow Lake.

Eleanor Roosevelt's primary focus for discussion at all three locations was the continued importance of reading - even in the dawn of the television era - a theme that still holds true today.

Tax Collector's Office

Rockaway Township's 2014 Tax Sale was concluded successfully on December 8, 2014. This year's tax sale was conducted by a new online auction. The new online tax sale insures a more fair process and gives our sale exposure to a wider range of investors, which results in the sale of certificate at the lowest rates possible, which, in return, benefits our residents greatly.

Mayor's Special Recognition

Mayor Dachisen wishes to recognize:

- Corey Guardepe, who passed the state exam and was awarded her Tax Collection certification. Cory's hard work and dedication has paid off and we are very proud of her accomplishment. Congratulations Cory!
- Business Administrator Gregory Poff for his election to the New Jersey Municipal Managers Association Executive Board.
- Health Officer Peter Tabbot, who presented results of a Rockaway Township occupational and public health study at the American Public Health Association's annual conference in New Orleans in November.
- Recycling Coordinator Al Knoth for Rockaway Township's new online recycling program, which provides a number of helpful resources to residents.
- Lola Bachok for usage of new online auction technology.

News from Community Services

Certified lifeguards needed for Mt. Hope Pond! Please contact Community Services at 973-983-2841

Look for details regarding spring and summer programming in the next Rockaway Report!

Ice Skating Tips

Ice skating is a fun winter activity and great exercise! The National Safety Council offers these tips to help you and your family enjoy safe skating.

- Wear skates that fit comfortably and provide enough ankle support to keep you on your feet.
- Have the blades professionally sharpened at the beginning of each season.
- Skate only on specially prepared skating areas where you are sure the ice is strong enough to withstand your weight.
- Always check for cracks, holes and other debris.
- Before setting out on your skating expedition, learn basic skating skills, such as how to stop and fall safely.
- Wear warm clothing and rest when you become tired or cold.
- Never skate alone.

Reprinted from the National Safety Council website

Rockaway Township only monitors Parks Lake for municipal skating access. Several factors are reviewed before posting the ice for public skating access, including surface, uniform thickness and type of ice. Please observe the signage accordingly for safe and enjoyable access.

Senior Citizen Groups in the Township

Rockaway Township provides assistance to three senior citizen clubs. All three clubs meet

on a regular basis at the Robert A. Galdon Senior Citizen Building, located at 19 Mt. Hope Road. The senior groups, in collaboration with the Rockaway Township Division of Health, provide various programs. There is also a tax preparation program, available free of charge to Rockaway Township seniors by appointment.

The Rockaway Township Senior Citizens Southern Group meets the first and third Mondays at 1:00pm. The Rockaway Township Social Club meets the second and fourth Mondays at 1:00pm. The White Meadow Lake Friendship Club meets the second and fourth Thursdays at the White Meadow Lake Clubhouse. The St. Cecilia's Senior Citizens group meets the first and third Tuesdays at St. Cecilia's Church. For more information on any of these organizations, call the Rockaway Township Department of Community Services at 973-983-2841

Sports Organizations Web Links

Residents who wish to register for spring sports programs should check the following websites:

Rockaway Township Baseball Association:
www.rtbasesballweb.org

Rockaway Township Girls Softball:
<http://www.rtgirlssoftball.org/>

Rockaway Township Lacrosse:
www.renegadeslax.org

Rockaway Township Soccer Association:
www.rtsa.org

Rockaway Township Track:
www.rtracers.com

Holiday Cheer in Rockaway Township



Left to right: Santa takes gift requests at the Township's annual Christmas Tree Lighting on December 5; Christmas cookies and hot chocolate are served; Mayor Michael Dachisen and Councilman Frank Berman assist Rabbi Herson at the annual Menorah Lighting and Chanukah Celebration; a very festive John Dunado (Historical Society Vice President), Patti McGowan (Dial-a-Ride) and Steve Dochniak (Historical Society President).

What's Happening

FEBRUARY

1st Frog Falls registration open For Rockaway Township Residents. Online registration through Community Pass



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

16th Municipal offices closed

MARCH

1st Frog Falls registration open - For eligible towns, veterans and Morris County first responders Online registration through Community Pass

7th Free rabies clinic Rockaway Township Public Works Garage 9:00am - 11:00am

28th Annual Easter Festival Copeland Middle School 10:00am

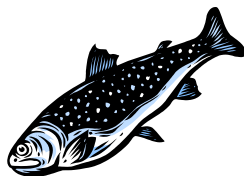


11th Blood pressure screening Rockaway Township Municipal Building 11:00am - 11:30am

APRIL

3rd Municipal offices closed

4th Opening Day Fishing Contest Mt. Hope Pond/Hibernia Fire Co. #1 8:00 am



11th Little League & Girl's Softball Opening Day Parade Fleetwood Drive 10:00am



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

Recycling Nets Grant Funds

Mayor Michael Dachisen is pleased to announce the Township has received a \$68,150 grant for its local recycling efforts from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The grant is awarded through the Recycling Enhancement Act, which rewards towns for increasing annual recycling tonnage. "Our community efforts in recycling continue to allow us to improve upon this service provided by the Township to its residents," said Mayor Dachisen.

The amount of monies the Township receives from the State is commensurate with our residents' commitment to recycling. Rockaway Township is recognized as a "Clean Community," and an increase in recycling tonnage can lead to an increased amount of money coming back to the Township through this grant.

Recycling not only saves the Township money in our budget, but helps the environment in which we live, work and play. Additional information on recycling can be found on the Township's website at <http://www.rockawaytownship.org/Recycle.cfm>. The Mayor thanks all residents for recycling and encourages everyone to increase their recycling within the Township.

Sports Awareness for Educating Today's Youth - S.A.F.E.T.Y.

The Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. Clinic is a three-hour program conducted by hundreds of recreation departments and youth sports agencies throughout New Jersey. It is specifically designed to meet 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.

The next clinic is scheduled for Friday, January 30, 2015, 6:30pm - 9:45pm, in the Rockaway Township Municipal Courtroom, 65 Mt. Hope Road. To register, please create your account with Community Pass at <https://register.communitypass.net/reg/>. No walk-ins will be permitted, and no food or beverages are permitted in the courtroom. Out of town residents will be charged \$30.00.

Utilize These Resources!

Stay connected to the Township by subscribing for e-newsletters, weather updates and the most up-to-date information. Visit www.egovlink.com/rockaway/subscriptions/subscribe.asp and subscribe today, and like us on Facebook!

With the Township's new registration process, you may also create an account on Community Pass. Go to <https://register.communitypass.net/reg/> to register and for more information. Online registration and payment right from the comfort of your home.

Community Services: Spring Program Registration Nears

Program Registration Available Online

The Department of Community Services is pleased to announce that it will be accepting program registration online through Community Pass, and we will now be accepting payment by credit card or e-checks for all Community Pass online registrations. You can pre-register your family on Community Pass at: <https://register.communitypass.net/Rockaway>.

Once your account has been created, you may 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 near the rear building entrance. If paying by cash, please bring exact change.

Frog Falls Registration to Open

Residents are advised that Frog Falls Aquatic Park registration will begin on the following dates:

- February 1 - Charter members and Rockaway Township residents
- March 1 - Open registration for partner communities
- April 1 - Sponsored memberships

Partner Communities include: Jefferson, Wharton, Denville, Mt. Arlington, Rockaway (Borough), Mine Hill, Dover, Sparta, Roxbury, West Milford, Town of Boonton, Victory Gardens, Military Veterans (ID or DD214 Required), Rockaway Township Employees, Rockaway Township Board of Education Employees and Morris County First Responders (ID Required). Active Military,

Retired Veterans, 100% Disabled Veterans or DOD Civilian Employees need to 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 may be natural or adopted, foster or any minor child/children for which the parents or guardians have legal custody. Children over 21 that are incapable of self-support due to mental 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.

Boy Scouts National Day of Service

On Saturday, October 25th, Boy Scout Troops 113, 160 and 64 partnered to clean up the all but forgotten St. Patrick's Cemetery in Hibernia, NJ. This cemetery remains from Rockaway's old iron mining days, and is mostly populated by over 400 Roman Catholic Irish and Hungarian miners and their families. Located in the woods off Green Pond Road, it is approximately a ¾ mile hike from any trailhead and access is only by foot. A hiker could walk right past it without knowing.

When established in 1869, the cemetery was surrounded by a thriving iron mining community. Now all that remains is a quiet, scenic forest, and because upkeep is infrequent, the forest continually tries to reclaim the cemetery.

The current property owner, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Roman Catholic Church in Boonton, gave permission for the Boy

Scouts to clear brush at this location. The area is approximately one acre in size and heavily overgrown with bushes, saplings and vines. The Boy Scouts had to be mindful of the historical artifacts and family mementos they might come across so as not to disturb them. When moving large objects, they had to be careful not to damage fragile headstones. Caretaker John Dunado of the Historical Society guided 35 Boy Scouts and leaders through the clean-up. Mr. Dunado has been looking after the site for many years and was very grateful to the Boy Scouts for their help and participation in the clean-up of one of Rockaway Township's historic cemeteries.

"Boy scouts are a uniquely qualified youth group for this type of task. This is a practical use of the hiking, woods tools, safety and first aid skills that every scout learns to earn the first class rank," said Rick Weber, Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 113.



Boy Scout Troops 113, 160 and 64, with Scoutmaster chaperones and oversight from caretaker John Dunado, clean up Hibernia's St. Patrick's Cemetery on October 25, the Boy Scouts National Day of Service.

Exciting Recycling News

Comprehensive Recycling Information Available Online

Rockaway Township proudly presents Re-Collect - a free, easy to use online database of anything and everything you need to know about recycling, bulk collection and vegetative waste collection in Rockaway Township. Simply go to www.rockawaytownship.org and click on the 'Re-Collect' widget on our home page, and you will be taken to an interactive database that:

- Lists all of the collection calendars.
- Provides search engines advising how to dispose of everything.
- Permits residents to register to receive important alerts and report problems.

Re-Collect is also available at your fingertips as a smartphone or tablet app. This new system will be replacing the annual recycling brochure, so please take advantage of the wealth of information Re-Collect has to offer. Visit the Township's website or Facebook page for the link to our Township-specific site. For your convenience, collection calendars will still be available for pick-up at the Municipal Building lobby and in the Town Planner.

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 recycling pick up cancellations on the Re-Collect app (alerts sent directly to you), the Rockaway Township Facebook page, and 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 Re-Collect for collection dates.

Additional Recycling Information

Residents are reminded that *curbside recycling is single stream* (no sort) recycling. If you bring your materials to either recycling center, the materials must be source separated (cardboard, cans and bottles, newspapers and junk mail all separated).

Clerk News -Township Code Online

The Rockaway Township General Ordinances and Land Use Ordinances are online and up-to-date. You may access them by following these steps: 1. Visit www.rockawaytownship.org; 2. on the left hand side under "Popular Links" click on General Ordinances or Land Use Ordinances.

The codes are current and have been prepared in-house at no cost to the taxpayer, and the Township will be able to update them immediately upon codification. You may perform topic-specific ordinance searches when you select particular fields. We hope you find this helpful.

Snow & Ice Removal Tips

With winter upon us, here are some tips to avoid snow plowing 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 973-625-4000.

Mailbox Replacement Policy

This policy pertains to mailboxes damaged by Township snowplows. The mailbox will be checked to see if a simple repair can be made. If so, this will be done. If the post is broken, but the mailbox can be reused, our workers will remount your mailbox on a new wooden post. If the mailbox cannot be reused, it will be replaced with a new mailbox. The work will be scheduled as soon as possible after the ground thaws. To report a mailbox damaged DPW equipment please fill out a service request at <http://www.egovlink.com/rockaway/action.asp?actionid=1773> | contact.

Street Lights

Street lights are maintained by Jersey Central Power and Light (JCP&L). As a courtesy, the Township can report a street light outage to the utility company if you provide us with the exact street address. Outages and street light issues may also be reported directly to JCP&L by dialing 800-662-3115, or by visiting www.FirstEnergyCorp.com and completing their on-line form. A link is provided on the Township's web site's main page on left-hand site under 'Services Requests.'

Upcoming Events—Mark your calendar

Look for details in the next newsletter, on the Township website or on Facebook

- 2015 Summer Recreation Program for Children entering 2nd through 8th Grade - Registration begins on May 1
- Denville/Rockaway Memorial Association Annual Memorial Day Parade - May 25
- Rockaway Gazebo Committee will present its Annual Summer Concert Series at Park Lakes on Sunday's, July 5 through August 30
- Ford Faesch House open house on July 3 and July 4

Health: Keeping Well Winter Long

The Division of Health will be holding its free rabies clinic at the Public Works Garage on March 7 from 9am - 11am. Please remember to vaccinate your pet!

The winter months are upon us and we don't have to fight the flu, catch colds or suffer the blues all winter long. The Rockaway Township Division of Health, in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is promoting ways to keep well through the winter months.

Cliché though it may be, one of the best ways to keep healthy during the winter is by *washing our hands frequently*. Hand washing is one of the most important things we can do to stop the spread of germs. Wash hands using warm or cold water. Apply soap, and lather for at least 20 seconds, making sure to soap every inch of your hands, including between fingers and under nails. Rinse well and dry, preferably with a disposable towel.

Keep warm. Winterizing homes is critical to keep out the cold. Insulate using storm windows and specific treatments such as weather stripping and insulation of water lines. The U.S.

Department of Energy states the ideal indoor temperature setting is 68 degrees Fahrenheit. Prepare not only your home but your cars, as well. Prepare for power outages and plan appropriate dress for outdoor activity. Be sure to check on older adults.

Manage stress. The holidays can be frantic, and stress management is critical during the holiday season and thereafter. Stress can lead to emotional and physical distress, so seeking balance by engaging in healthy activities is best:

- Eat healthy, well-balanced meals and drink plenty of water.
- Exercise on a regular basis; at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity every week and muscle strengthening activities on two or more days a week.
- Get plenty of sleep and take breaks if you are stressed.

- Speak with friends, a counselor, a doctor or even clergy.

Obtain proper vaccinations. The flu vaccine is important to help deter illness each year. The widely manufactured flu vaccines are designed to fight the three strains of influenza that are most anticipated by international experts each year (trivalent vaccine), and a quadrivalent vaccine, designed to fight four strains, has recently become available. Call your physician for more information.

The Division of Health has numerous vaccines available to eligible Rockaway Township residents for free or at low cost. To qualify, residents must be uninsured or under-insured. Available vaccines include those for chickenpox, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, HPV, influenza, meningococcal disease, MMR (measles, mumps, rubella), pneumonia, shingles and Tdap. For more information, call the Division of Health at 973-983-2848.



For the latest news: check out Rockaway Township's website at www.rockawaytownship.org

Fire Is...or...Why I Must Have Working Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Fire is fast – *There is little time!*

In less than 30 seconds, a small flame can burn completely out of control and become a major fire. It only takes minutes for thick black smoke to fill a house. If you wake up to fire, you won't have time to grab valuables because fire spreads too quickly and smoke is too thick.

Fire is hot! *Heat is more threatening than flames.*

A fire's heat alone can kill. Room temperatures early in a fire can be 100 degrees at floor level and 600 degrees at eye level. Inhaling this super-hot air will scorch your lungs. This heat can melt clothes to your skin. In three minutes, a room can become so hot that everything in it ignites at once. This is called flashover, with everything at 1000 degrees or more.

Fire is dark! *Fire isn't bright, it's pitch black.*

Fire starts bright, but quickly produces black

smoke and complete darkness. If you wake up to fire, you may be blinded, disoriented and unable to find your way around the home you've lived in for years.

Fire is deadly! *Smoke and toxic gases kill more people than flames do.*

Fire uses up the oxygen you need and produces smoke and poisonous gases that kill. Breathing the odorless, colorless fumes of carbon monoxide can lull you into a deep sleep before the flames reach your door.

Functioning Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms will save your life by giving you time – an extra 30 seconds to a minute at the very beginning of a fire.

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

Solutions to Stormwater Pollution

Easy Things You Can Do Every Day To Protect Our Water

A Guide to Healthy Habits for Cleaner Water

Pollution on streets, parking lots and lawns is washed by rain into storm drains, then directly to our drinking water supplies and the ocean and lakes our children play in. Fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, pet waste, grass clippings: You name it and it ends up in our water.

Stormwater pollution is one of New Jersey's greatest threats to clean and plentiful water, and that's why we're all doing something about it.

By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater. It all adds up to cleaner water, and it saves the high cost of cleaning up once it's dirty.

As part of New Jersey's initiative to keep our water clean and plentiful and to meet federal requirements, many municipalities and other public agencies including colleges and military bases must adopt ordinances or other rules prohibiting various activities that contribute to stormwater pollution. Breaking these rules can result in fines or other penalties.



As a resident, business, or other member of the New Jersey community, it is important to know these easy things you can do every day to protect our water.



Limit your use of fertilizers and pesticides

- Do a soil test to see if you need a fertilizer.
- Do not apply fertilizers if heavy rain is predicted.
- Look into alternatives for pesticides.
- Maintain a small lawn and keep the rest of your property or yard in a natural state with trees and other native vegetation that requires little or no fertilizer.
- If you use fertilizers and pesticides, follow the instructions on the label on how to correctly apply it.

Make sure you properly store or discard any unused portions.

Properly use and dispose of hazardous products

- Hazardous products include some household or commercial cleaning products, lawn and garden care products, motor oil, antifreeze, and paints.
- Do not pour any hazardous products down a storm drain because storm drains are usually connected to local waterbodies and the water is not treated.

- If you have hazardous products in your home or workplace, make sure you store or dispose of them properly. Read the label for guidance.

- Use natural or less toxic alternatives when possible.

- Recycle used motor oil.

- Contact your municipality, county or facility management office for the locations of hazardous-waste disposal facilities.



Keep pollution out of storm drains

- Municipalities and many other public agencies are required to mark certain storm drain inlets with messages reminding people that storm drains are connected to local waterbodies.

- Do not let sewage or other wastes flow into a stormwater system.

Clean up after your pet

- Many municipalities and public agencies must enact and enforce local pet-waste rules.

- An example is requiring pet owners or their keepers to pick up and properly dispose of pet waste dropped on public or other people's property.

- Make sure you know your town's or agency's requirements and comply with them. It's the law. And remember to:

- Use newspaper, bags or pooper-scoopers to pick up wastes.

- Dispose of the wrapped pet waste in the trash or unwrapped in a toilet.

- Never discard pet waste in a storm drain.

Don't feed wildlife

- Do not feed wildlife, such as ducks and geese, in public areas.

- Many municipalities and other public agencies must enact and enforce a rule that prohibits wildlife feeding in these areas.



Don't litter

- Place litter in trash receptacles.

- Recycle. Recycle. Recycle.

- Participate in community cleanups.

Dispose of yard waste properly

- Keep leaves and grass out of storm drains.

- If your municipality or agency has yard waste collection rules, follow them.

- Use leaves and grass clippings as a resource for compost.

- Use a mulching mower that recycles grass clippings into the lawn.



Contact information

For more information on stormwater related topics, visit www.njstormwater.org or www.nonpointsource.org

Additional information is also available at U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Web sites www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater or www.epa.gov/nps

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Water Quality
Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control
Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program
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www.cleanwaternj.org

